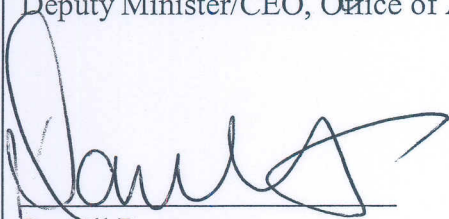


OFFICE OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

BUSINESS PLAN 2009-2010



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



Darrell Dexter
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

August 17, 2009

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A. Message from the Minister

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs has a number of initiatives underway to ensure that it advances its mission of building mutual understanding, respect and a lasting relationship with the Mi'kmaq in 2009-2010.

Planning is underway to hold the second annual meeting between the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and Nova Scotia's Cabinet. This meeting sets the foundation of our government to government relationship with the Mi'kmaq.

The Made-in-Nova Scotia Process, the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum and our consultation process remain the cornerstones of our work in building a sustainable foundation for Mi'kmaq-Government relations. These initiatives made considerable progress in the last fiscal year.

The Made-in-Nova Scotia Process continues to work on issues such as moose hunting, fisheries, and forestry. The most significant accomplishment under the Made-in-Nova Scotia Process in the last year was a unique arrangement that promotes economic development in the Debert Air Industrial Park, provides archaeological protection and paves the way for a Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre. This will protect and promote Mi'kmaq culture, recognize the importance of Mi'kmaq economic development and create a new era of partnership between the province, the Mi'kmaq and the Municipality of Colchester County.

With the institution of a project fund for economic and social change in 2007, the Tripartite Forum's eight committees have been working on projects valued at about \$300-thousand. The Forum has been a key vehicle for collaborative efforts in the economic and social sectors.

We have also made considerable progress in developing a clear and collaborative approach for consultation. Staff are working to ensure that government departments are using the interim consultation guidelines, and the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Terms of Reference, and we now have a full-time consultation coordinator working with the parties.

As part of our ongoing effort to make Nova Scotians more aware of the Mi'kmaq and their way of life, our Office produced a third film in the Wabanaki series, entitled Wabanaki: People of the Dawn Part III, Dreamcatchers. This film will be distributed to public schools in 2009-10.

I want to acknowledge the dedicated work of our staff and ask that you contact the Office of Aboriginal Affairs with any questions regarding their business plan or any of the work ahead in 2009-2010.

Darrell Dexter
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

B. Vision

The vision of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs (OAA) is:

Partnership. Negotiation. Direction.

On our journey toward fair and meaningful relationships with Aboriginal Peoples, we strive to build an inclusive, informed and prosperous Nova Scotia.

C. Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs to:

Lead Nova Scotia in Aboriginal Affairs by building mutual understanding, respect and a lasting relationship.

D. Planning Context

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs fosters and maintains conditions for opportunities through its involvement in the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum, the Made-In-Nova-Scotia Negotiation Process and through consultation efforts, as well as many intergovernmental and bilateral initiatives. OAA places a strong emphasis on relationship building and collaborative approaches with respect to the Aboriginal community as these are at the roots of successful progress for Aboriginal people and the Nova Scotia community at large. In the long term, strategic and smart investment within Nova Scotia's Aboriginal community benefits the province and its economy as a whole.

Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq First Nation is comprised of thirteen communities with populations ranging from 233 in the Annapolis Valley First Nation to 3,845 in the Eskasoni First Nation. In total, there are 13,724 registered Indians in Nova Scotia and of these, 4,597 live off-reserve. The Registered Indian population in Nova Scotia is represented through a series of 13 band councils and two tribal councils, the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq and the Union of Nova Scotia Indians. The Union of Nova Scotia Indians tribal council represents the five First Nation communities within Cape Breton (We'koqma'q, Wagmatcook, Membertou, Eskasoni, and Chapel Island First Nations) along with two First Nations located in mainland Nova Scotia (Indian Brook and Acadia First Nations). The remaining six communities are represented by the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (Bear River, Annapolis Valley, Glooscap, Millbrook, Paq'tnekek, and Pictou Landing First Nations).

Other Aboriginal organizations include the Native Council of Nova Scotia which provides a range of services, primarily to Aboriginal people living off-reserve, and the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association which provides Aboriginal women with a voice in the social, cultural and economic development of the Aboriginal community. The Micmac Native Friendship Centre offers a host of social programs aimed to improve the safety and well-being of Halifax's urban Aboriginal population, which, according to the Census 2006, is '5,230, including an estimated 1,660 Registered Indians'.

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs has a leadership and coordination role within government on Aboriginal issues. Delivering on this mandate is done in the context of a number of factors:

- On October 1, 2008, the 13 Chiefs signed a *Mi'kmaq Nationhood Proclamation* representing a commitment from the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia to develop a system of governance to enhance the quality of life for their people.
- The Umbrella Agreement (June 2002) outlines the Province's primary commitments and mechanisms by which we will address issues with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and Canada, namely the development and signing of a Framework Agreement (Aboriginal and Treaty Rights); completion of a Terms of Reference with respect to consultation and; a re-commitment to the Mi'kmaq - Nova Scotia - Canada Tripartite Forum.
- The Framework Agreement (February 2007) sets out the process and the subjects to be discussed in full negotiations that fall broadly under the categories of land, resources and governance.
- The Mi'kmaq - Nova Scotia - Canada Tripartite Forum continues to offer a unique forum for dialogue and shared problem solving. Meaningful progress continues to be made on a number of existing and new projects that have resulted in positive changes in areas of culture and heritage preservation, access to justice, economic development, health and healthy lifestyle promotion, to name but a few.
- The Office of Aboriginal Affairs continues to work collaboratively with other departments of government and the Mi'kmaq to develop and implement consultation protocols and approaches and to lay the foundation for a long-term consultation policy. The impetus for this work rests with recent Supreme Court of Canada decisions (Haida, Taku River and Mikisew Cree) that outlined the obligations provinces have with respect to consultation with Aboriginal peoples.
- In Nova Scotia, as in the rest of Canada, the Aboriginal population is much younger than the rest of the population. The median age of the First Nation population in Nova Scotia is 25.4 compared to 41.6 for the population as a whole. The Aboriginal population is also increasingly inclined to live off-reserve and in urban areas of the province. According to the Community Well-Being Index prepared by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, First Nation communities remain the poorest in Canada. Based on this index the bottom 9 communities in Nova Scotia were First Nations and not one First Nation community was rated higher than 62nd out of the 86 communities compared by the index.

E. Strategic Goals

1. To facilitate and support a coordinated approach within Government on matters related to Aboriginal people.
2. To work collaboratively with the Mi'kmaq, and other federal/provincial agencies to foster economic and social development as well as community capacity building.
3. To enhance Nova Scotians' awareness and understanding of issues related to the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.
4. To continue to build and maintain a sustainable foundation for Aboriginal-Government relations.
5. To represent the interests of Nova Scotians in intergovernmental, bilateral and tri-party negotiations and initiatives.

F. Core Business Areas

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs carries out its responsibilities through the following five core business areas:

1. **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 Aboriginal-Government relations.
2. **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.
3. **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 in order to reconcile the respective rights and interests of Parties involved.
4. **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 increase Nova Scotians' awareness of the Mi'kmaq culture. This business area also the Office's promotion of Aboriginal awareness and importance of relationship building with other government departments and agencies.

5. **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.

G. Priorities 2009-2010

1. Aboriginal and Intergovernmental Relations

Nova Scotia continues to work with the federal government and the Aboriginal community to strengthen relationships and close the gaps in social and economic outcomes. Our commitments are based on the fundamental principles of partnership, respect and commitment. As such, Nova Scotia will work with the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq and the Government of Canada to improve the health, education and economic conditions of Mi'kmaq people in Nova Scotia. The key actions in 2009-2010 are identified below.

An historic meeting of the provincial Cabinet and the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs took place in Eskasoni First Nation on September 25, 2008. Along with beginning a dialogue on key bilateral issues such as progress and challenges in consultation, social and economic matters, and Aboriginal and Treaty rights negotiations, the province committed to hold these joint meetings on an annual basis. These meetings will set the framework for collaboration in a wide range of areas.

The Tripartite Forum is a key mechanism in Nova Scotia for addressing issues affecting Mi'kmaq communities. With the project management approach firmly in place and a full-time project manager on-board to assist forum participants in their endeavors, there is a growing list of projects being undertaken by the Tripartite Forum. A full list of current projects is contained in Annex A to this plan.

A key focus in the coming year will be on economic and workforce development. A solid foundation for collaborative work is being created with our partners in Nova Scotia Economic and Rural Development and Labour and Workforce Development. In the coming year, OAA will work with First Nations and Canada to further these efforts which will include:

- Strengthening employer engagement through increasing workforce participation initiatives based on the successful partnership with Michelin;
- Working with both the private sector and First Nations to stimulate economic partnerships;
- Encouraging First Nation involvement in major projects in Nova Scotia. The \$19 million Aboriginal set-aside for the Sydney Tar Ponds clean-up has demonstrated that there is a capacity within First Nation communities to partner with government and the private sector on these types of projects;

- Supporting the efforts of Labour and Workforce Development in the creation and implementation of an Integrated Aboriginal Labour Market Strategy and providing further investment in the labour market training needs of Aboriginal people through existing programming and the Labour Market Agreement;
- As part of an on-going commitment announced in 2007-2008, OAA will continue to support the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program in partnership with the federal government and the university sector.
- Continue to support First Nation capacity to support community and economic development through gaming arrangements. These revenue-sharing arrangements provide approximately \$50 million annually to the 13 First Nation communities in Nova Scotia.
- Collaboration with Canada and the Native Council of Nova Scotia on the development and implementation of an economic and business development strategy.

During 2009-10, the Office of Aboriginal Affairs will continue to work with the Mi'kmaq in preserving and promoting Mi'kmaq heritage and cultural tourism products. These efforts are consistent with the Heritage Strategy (*A Treasured Past, A Precious Future: A Heritage Strategy for Nova Scotia*) released in 2008 and the provincial tourism strategy (*New Realities, New Directions: Tourism Plan*):

- Continued support for the development of the Mi'kmaq Debert Cultural Centre. The aim of this initiative is to protect valuable and unique archaeological sites while developing opportunities to share the history and culture of the Mi'kmaq. With the completion of land discussions and the development of the master interpretive plan, the project will continue to progress in 2009-10;
- Development of the Mi'kmaq cultural tourism sector by providing core capacity support to the Mi'kmaq Association of Cultural Studies;
- Support for Treaty Day and Mi'kmaq History Month (October)
- Wabanaki: People of the Dawn: Part III will be distributed along with a learning guide for teachers to Nova Scotia schools; and
- In partnership with the Department of Education, Aboriginal Affairs will support the delivery of a Cross-Cultural Awareness program in public schools.

As part of a broader community wellness approach, support will continue to be given to the *Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network* (MLSN). MLSN, created in 2002-2003, is an administrative structure designed to support current and future justice programs and services directed toward Nova Scotia's Aboriginal community.

With an expanding young, urban Aboriginal population, the Office will strive to further engage departments and agencies to better support the needs of Nova Scotia's Urban Aboriginal population. In 2009-10, this will include:

- Support for a national study on Urban Aboriginal people being conducted by Environics;
- Engagement with urban Aboriginal organizations such as the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre, Halifax Regional Municipality and the federal government focused on improving access by urban Aboriginal people to current programs and the identification of gaps in programs and service delivery to this growing population.

Outcome Measures for Aboriginal and Intergovernmental Relations:

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data 2004/05	2009/10 Target	Strategies to Achieve Target
To effectively represent the interests of Nova Scotians in inter-governmental, tripartite, and bilateral initiatives and negotiations.	Percentage of government departments and agencies who agree that OAA effectively represents Nova Scotian's interests in intergovernmental, tripartite, and bilateral initiatives and negotiations.	32% of respondents strongly agreed and 64% agreed that OAA represents Nova Scotian's interests effectively in intergovernmental, bilateral, and tri-party initiatives and negotiations. A new survey will be conducted in June 2009.	To increase the % of respondents who strongly agree.	Ongoing participation and coordination of provincial role in the Mi'kmaq-Canada-Nova Scotia Tripartite Forum. Ongoing participation and involvement in national and regional initiatives, such as the development of an Aboriginal Labour Market Skills Strategy and the continued implementation of the Nova Scotia Aboriginal Health Blueprint.
Improved relations between the Government of Nova Scotia and Aboriginal communities and organizations.	Percentage of departments and agencies who are satisfied with their working relationship with Aboriginal communities and organizations.	15% of respondents were very satisfied with their working relationship with Aboriginal communities and organizations, and 65% were only somewhat satisfied.	To increase the % of respondents who are very satisfied.	Ongoing identification and coordination of cross-departmental Aboriginal issues. Continuation of strategic advice and policy analysis to departments and agencies. Working with departments and agencies to apply national strategies to provincial approaches.

2. Corporate Aboriginal Affairs Administration

OAA will continue to work closely with departments and agencies to provide advice and support in defining various approaches to addressing Aboriginal issues. In particular, during 2009-2010, the Office will focus on the following key areas:

Corporate Advice on Aboriginal Issues

The Office provides support and advice to a wide range of provincial departments and agencies on Aboriginal issues. This includes participation in the development of a wide range of strategies, programs and services that target key issues faced by the Aboriginal community.

Gaming

Nova Scotia First Nations have been involved in gaming, through individual agreements with the Province since 1995. Since that time, the value of their gaming revenue has increased substantially reaching almost \$50 million in 2008-09. Today gaming revenue makes an important contribution to the social and economic development of First Nations and has enabled many bands to improve their financial future. In 2009-10, the priority will be to consider the long term arrangements for First Nations gaming to ensure they continue to support key objectives in a sustainable way.

Healthy Workplace

In support of all of OAA's challenges, the Office puts a high value on ensuring that all staff have the necessary training to carry out the tasks assigned. Both individual and joint training of staff will be pursued in 2008-2009. As part of our continued effort to promote healthier workplaces, Spring 2008 saw a very successful weight loss and lifestyle improvement program which lasted ten weeks. In 2009-2010, our Office will continue its involvement on the government wide Healthy Workplace Advisory Committee and will continue to provide opportunities for employees to learn about ways to improve their total health and create a healthy work environment.

Outcome Measures for Corporate Aboriginal Affairs Administration:

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data 2004/05	2009/10 Target	Strategies to Achieve Target
Effective coordination and advice being provided to departments and agencies.	Departments and agencies satisfaction with the advice and support provided by OAA.	75% of departments were "very satisfied" with the advice and support provided by OAA.	80%	Provide research and policy advice that is timely, accurate and useful.

3. 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 in order to reconcile the respective rights and interests of Parties involved. Key activities are noted below.

Through collaborative work with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and the federal government, the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Framework Agreement was signed on February 23, 2007. This Agreement is a commitment under the June 2002 *Umbrella Agreement*, that formalizes the establishment of a negotiations process on matters related to Aboriginal rights, including Aboriginal title, and treaty rights and governance. Negotiations are continuing in a spirit that is interest-based and inclusive, with a commitment to increasing opportunities for the Mi'kmaq to meet their full socio-economic potential and ultimately contribute to the prosperity of Nova Scotia. Discussions are ongoing on substantive topics outlined in the Framework Agreement.

The Negotiation process will continue to explore interests and expectations around a wide range of topics. The focus in 2009-2010 will be on further developing the background information and understanding of key topics of interest to all three parties in the negotiations. Priority topics for discussion include moose and wildlife management, forestry, fisheries, land and governance. While the Parties are focused on developing long-term understandings regarding Mi'kmaq rights and governance, efforts are being made to make interim progress on key issues.

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs is committed to citizenship engagement and providing meaningful and relevant opportunities for Nova Scotians to contribute to the Made-in-Nova Scotia Process. For the negotiation process, this means building widespread awareness and continuing to take steps to provide information to the public, municipalities, interest groups and stakeholders, and establishing appropriate advisory mechanisms.

Outcome Measures for Negotiations:

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	2009/10 Target	Strategies to Achieve Target
Progress toward resolution of Aboriginal rights, Aboriginal title and treaty-related issues.	Progress on substantive negotiations of priority topics.	Base Year is 2007-08. Priority topics identified. Establishment of Working Groups.	With the other two parties, develop concept papers and key issues for each priority negotiation topic. Where appropriate develop interim measures.	Continue negotiation table meetings. Continue Working Group meetings Provide support to the development of background information and examination of options and interim measures.
	Public Participation (processes for information sharing and input by public and stakeholder regarding negotiations).	Series of informal meetings and presentations about negotiations to key stakeholder groups. Completed survey in 2007-08 to obtain input from interested groups and organizations about the level of participation they are interested in.	Continue to meet with interested groups and organizations about the Process. Initiate a communications strategy which will address the particular character of target groups and organizations. Continue to promote the Made-Nova Scotia- Process within the public sector to increase the understanding of the process, negotiation strategy, and related issues.	Provide regular updates about the negotiation process on OAA website Continue departmental meetings to foster a cooperative, supportive approach to address the issues.

4. 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 mechanisms, Aboriginal Affairs will attempt to increase Nova Scotians' awareness of the Mi'kmaq community. This business area also includes the Office's promotion of Aboriginal awareness and importance of relationship building with other government departments and agencies. To enhance public understanding and awareness of the Mi'kmaq and the collaborative work of governments and communities, OAA will pursue the following priorities in the coming fiscal year:

www.gov.ns.ca/abor

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs website was revamped early in 2008 and now contains a wealth of information about the Office, the work we do and information on the communities and organizations we engage with. In 2009-10, we will continue to populate the website with current and relevant information which we hope website visitors will find helpful.

Kekina'muek

An educational resource publication called *Kekina'muek: Learning about the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia* produced by the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM) can be found electronically on our website. It shares stories and information about Mi'kmaq life and history -- past and present. We have distributed the publication to grades 7, 10 and 11 students throughout the province and will continue to build on resources for school-age children and youth to learn about Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq community. In partnership with the Department of Education, Aboriginal Affairs will support the delivery of a Cross-Cultural Awareness program in public schools.

Building Departmental Awareness

In our continued effort to improve departmental awareness and promote relationship building with the Aboriginal community, the Office will be conducting informal information sessions with other interested departments and agencies.

Aboriginal Perceptions Training

2009-2010 will be the seventh year of the Aboriginal Perceptions Training course. This course is designed for two purposes: first, it is a valuable asset for employees who work with Aboriginal communities as a result of their department's work; second, it will help prepare employees for the experience of having Aboriginal co-workers in the Nova Scotia Civil Service. The course is being delivered in every region of Nova Scotia, so all public sector employees can take part. The course is also being provided in a limited way to organizations outside the provincial public service as well.

Consultation Training

The Office designed and began delivering a two-day Aboriginal Consultation training course (*Consulting with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia*) in September 2007. Since that date, approximately 215 provincial, federal and municipal staff have taken this training. In 2009, two training sessions will be held, as well as focused one-day training session with individuals department.

Consultation Awareness Sessions

The Office is targeting provincial government departments, senior officials, consulting and law firms, and private industry for information sessions on the Crown's duty to consult and Nova Scotia's approach to Aboriginal consultation. A number of information sessions have been held. The focus for 2009-2010 is industry, beginning with a public forum on February 4th, 2009.

Wabanaki: People of the Dawn (III Part Series)

The Office, in conjunction with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, completed a third documentary film following on the success of *Wabanaki: People of the Dawn Parts I and II*. This film profiles four Mi'kmaq youth and their respective achievements and will be distributed to junior and senior high school students throughout the province. It will also be made available to key OAA audiences and stakeholders.

Outcome Measure for Public Education and Awareness

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	2009/10 Target	Strategies to Achieve Target
To enhance awareness and understanding of Aboriginal issues in Nova Scotia.	Percentage of Nova Scotians who feel informed and knowledgeable of Aboriginal issues in Nova Scotia.	41% of Nova Scotians feel informed about Aboriginal issues in Nova Scotia. (2009 Omnibus Survey)	Increase of 10% in Nova Scotians who feel informed about Aboriginal issues in Nova Scotia.	Develop and implement strategies to enhance Nova Scotians' understanding and awareness of issues related to Aboriginal people in Nova Scotia.
	% of government employees who strongly agree that OAA enhances awareness of Mi'kmaq culture.	33% of departments and agencies "strongly agreed" that OAA enhances the awareness of Mi'kmaq culture, while 67% "agreed". 2004-05 Base year - A new survey to be conducted in 2009.	Increase in the % of government employees who strongly agree.	Develop and implement strategies to enhance employee's understanding and awareness of issues related to Aboriginal people in Nova Scotia.
	Qualitative assessment of Government employees' satisfaction with Aboriginal Perceptions Training.	Evaluation of participants in the training rated the course as excellent. (note: information in this particular box provided qualitatively, no quantitative or percentage information available).	We hope to continue on the success already achieved by responding to the comments and suggestions of future participants.	Develop a program that can be fluid according to the needs of the participants.

5. Consultation

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled in key cases (Haida, Taku River, Mikisew Cree) on the obligations that provincial governments have with respect to consulting with Aboriginal peoples on decisions that may affect their interests. Over the coming fiscal year, OAA will work with provincial government departments and the Mi'kmaq to continue the implementation of the Province's Interim Consultation Policy, and provide advice and support on coordination of consultation efforts. OAA will also lay the groundwork for the development of a long-term Consultation Policy.

The June 2002 *Umbrella Agreement* included a commitment for the parties to develop terms of reference to address consultation between the federal and provincial governments and the Mi'kmaq. The Canada-Nova Scotia-Mi'kmaq Consultation Terms of Reference has been completed and is in year-two of a trial implementation period. During a collaborative year-one evaluation of the Terms of Reference, a number of changes were identified, which will be implemented by the three signing parties over the coming year. The goal is to continue with a collaborative approach on consultation issues.

In an effort to support the ability of other provincial government departments to engage in consultations with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, OAA has undertaken a number of initiatives:

- A two day training program was developed by OAA on Consultation with First Nations and delivered to government employees on several occasions. In 2009-2010, OAA will continue to deliver the course, and it is expected that employees will become familiar with the Interim Consultation Policy and the Canada-Nova Scotia-Mi'kmaq Consultation Terms of Reference, and know how to apply them.
- In the spirit of fostering understanding at various levels of government, OAA organized an intensive "question and answer" day with a nationally respected expert on Aboriginal law and Consultation, Thomas Isaac, attended by Deputy Ministers and representatives from several provincial government departments.
- OAA will assist with and support other provincial government departments in developing their own operational consultation guidelines, consistent with the Interim Consultation Policy and the Canada-Nova Scotia-Mi'kmaq Consultation Terms of Reference.
- OAA plans to work with the Environmental Assessment Branch of the Nova Scotia Environment Department to develop an approach to consultation with the Mi'kmaq in the Environmental Assessment process.
- OAA continues to provide written policy risk assessments to Departments on specific projects as requested. A package of consultation tools and a consultation risk assessment format have been developed as a resource. These tools will be supplemented in the coming year through new information material from the Learning Seminar on Aboriginal Law.

Outcome Measures for Consultation:

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	2009/10 Target	Strategies to Achieve Target
Improved consultation between the provincial government and the Mi'kmaq	Consultation Terms of Reference - to address consultation between the Mi'kmaq, Canada and NS for government approvals and activities that may impact Aboriginal or treaty rights.	Evaluation of Terms of Reference (ToR)	Implement changes identified in ToR Evaluation Operate under ToR during year-two of trial period	ToR Evaluation Document Recommendations for Deputy Ministers Advisory Committee (DMAC) and Cabinet Renewed ToR Protocol Bi-monthly consultation meetings Coordinate/facilitate consultations between the Mi'kmaq and various provincial departments on key projects.
Improve capacity to undertake consultation efforts within other provincial government departments	Interim Policy Guidance on Consultation	<p>Provided training to advise departments of policy.</p> <p>Organized "Q and A" day with law expert for Departments</p> <p>Developed package of consultation tools and risk assesment approach</p> <p>Provided written policy risk assessments to Departments as requested.</p>	<p>Continue to provide training sessions.</p> <p>Assist departments in developing their own operational consultation guidelines</p> <p>Organize Learning Seminar on Aboriginal Law and Duty to Consult Aboriginal People</p> <p>Continue to provide written policy risk assessments to Departments as requested.</p>	<p>Identify and deliver targeted training sessions to specific departments</p> <p>Provide templates, advice, on operational guidelines</p>

H. Budget Context

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS			
	2008-2009 Estimate	2008-2009 Actual	2009-2010 Estimate
Program and Service Area	(\$thousands)	(\$thousands)	(\$thousands)
Total Program Expenses:			
Aboriginal Affairs	\$4,394	\$4,500	\$3,785
Total Program Expenses	\$4,394	\$4,500	\$3,785
Provincial Funded Staff (FTE's)	16.0	15.7	15.0

Please note that in 2009-10 the following interdepartmental transfer of costs have been made:

- Legal Services costs (\$150,000) transferred to Department of Justice.
- Aboriginal Courtworker program costs (\$220,000) transferred to Department of Justice. Federal recoveries (\$110,000) associated with this program have also been transferred to the Department of Justice.

ANNEX A

SUMMARY OF TRIPARTITE FORUM STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND CURRENT PROJECTS

Strategic Direction - Individual and community capacity: building the capacity of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq. Outcomes linked to this are increasing the skills of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, increasing participation of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq in the labour market, increasing employment of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq youth, and increasing Mi'kmaq language retention opportunities.

- **Unama'ki Procurement Officer - One Year Pilot (Economic Development Committee)**
The objective will be to provide Aboriginal firms and individuals in the Cape Breton area with the assistance required to access and participate in the government and private sector procurement processes effectively. This project will also communicate procurement opportunities to Unama'ki businesses as well as all Nova Scotia Bands, learn about existing procurement strategies and working with industry and government to establish new and effective Aboriginal procurement strategies.

Strategic Direction - Youth: ensuring the success of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Youth on their path of life-long learning. Outcomes linked to this are increasing youth participation on issues and solutions, increasing the number of healthy active youth, increasing youth governance development opportunities.

- **Physical Activity Data Collection, Mi'kmaw Students PHASE 2 (Sport and Recreation Committee)**
Phase 1 of this project focused on Training Teachers and partners on the use of gaining/obtaining physical activity Data from Mi'kmaw students in the classroom setting. In Phase 2 Pedometers will be used in the classroom for the purpose of monitoring students and their physical activity levels over the course of a school year.
- **Gaps in Addiction Services for First Nation Youth (Health Committee - Addictions Working Committee)**
The mandate of this work is to address the gaps in addiction services for youth and First Nation members dealing with the justice and corrections system. (Some) key objectives are: promote and support addictions recovery; identify available services that address First Nation addictions issues; and identify gaps in addictions services.

Strategic Direction - Community: ensuring the work of Tripartite Forum is inclusive of communities. Outcomes linked to this are ensuring all work is inclusive of and linked to the communities' needs, priorities and plans, as well as increasing community participation and input.

- **Indian Brook/Millbrook Aboriginal Outreach Pilot Program (Justice Committee)**
Knowledge gained from this project (ie. full-time victim services officer, research and data collection) will be used to create a vision for culturally sensitive, effective, accessible and compassionate support model of service delivery for Aboriginal victims of crime in First Nation communities.

- **Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network (MLSN): Transition from Program to Independent Entity (Justice Committee)**
MLSN was established for the Mi'kmaq and Aboriginal people of Nova Scotia. Mi'kmaq and Aboriginal people who find themselves in the justice system can be provided services which are operated and directed by Mi'kmaw. Services are grounded in language and culture. This project will facilitate the transition from its current status as a program (operated under the umbrella of the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq) to an independent entity.
- **Family Violence & Aboriginal Communities: Building Our Knowledge and Direction through Community Based Research and Community Forums (Justice Committee)**
The main objective of this research is to find and develop culturally appropriate and effective intervention models that address family violence within the context of Mi'kmaw communities in Nova Scotia.
- **Moving Forward Together on Health Priorities: Increasing Government and Community Capacity to Take Strategic Action on Providing Health (Health Committee)**
The key focus of the project is to build awareness and capacity of all parties to improve the health of Mi'kmaq communities and individuals through the prioritization of the 56 recommendations stemming from Providing Health Care, Achieving Health Aboriginal Health Blueprint document.

Strategic Direction - Relationships: building relationships among all partners for today and tomorrow. Outcomes linked to this are maintaining links between the work of the Tripartite Forum and that of Kwikmug Maw-Klusuag - Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative, achieving jurisdictional clarity when required, and ensuring the work of the Tripartite Forum considers Mi'kmaq cultural realities.

- **Bedford Barrens Historical Research Data (Culture and Heritage Committee)**
This project will gather historical data (including oral tradition, remote sensing data, archival documents, physical site assessment of 'historical use', trail user questionnaires and archaeological resources) to assist in the development of the parkland and educational/interpretive paneling related to the Bedford Barrens and other educational tools.
- **400th Anniversary of the Baptism of Chief Membertou: 2010 Celebrations (Culture and Heritage Committee)**
The key focus of this project is to develop a plan/strategy for a year long celebration of this momentous occasion with events taking place in various Mi'kmaq communities across the province. Each community will celebrate a different and unique milestone and moment in the history of the Mi'kmaq people.
- **Canadian Criminal Justice Association (CCJA) Congress 2009 (Justice Committee)**
The CCJA National Congress has been in existence since the late 1940's, and is held in Nova Scotia only once every decade. It is the principal education event in Canada and typically includes participants from the judiciary, lawyers, police, corrections, victim services, health professionals, community agencies, etc. Congress 2009's theme is *'Problem Solving Justice: What Problems? Whose Justice? Specials Populations, Specials Courts, Special Services'*. The overall objective is to highlight the Mi'kmaq community of Nova Scotia as a partner with Canada and Nova Scotia in support of Justice best practices.