

Remarks

Honourable Angus MacIsaac

Acting Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

on

Introduction of the Mi'kmaq History Month Poster

Treaty Day

Monday, Oct. 1, 2007

The proclamation for Mi'kmaq History Month was signed on October 1st, 1993. In that proclamation both the Nova Scotia government and the Mi'kmaq recognized that the peace and friendship aspects of the treaties signed in the 1700s required public awareness of the history, values and diversity of cultures.

Both Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy and then Premier John Savage expressed the wish to promote public awareness of the long history and rich culture of the Mi'kmaq for all Nova Scotians.

During October, the public of Nova Scotia will again have opportunities to learn about Mi'kmaq history and participate in events throughout the province.

Each year a poster with a theme for Mi'kmaq history month is designed and distributed throughout the province's various institutions.

The poster this year features a theme of Mi'kmaq basketry. It explains the various steps required in the making of a basket as well as showcasing several intricate designs.

The message on the poster reads in part:

“Prior to contact, Mi'kmaq relied on the use of the natural bounty – grasses, rushes, roots and reeds and eventually wood splints– for making baskets. These vessels were used for transporting and storing food and materials needed for daily life.

“Upon European contact, Mi'kmaw baskets were used to trade for European goods. With the trading came new metal technology, and as an ever-adapting society, the Mi'kmaq soon began using these tools. . . . the craft evolved from one of sustenance from nature to an industry that would continue to provide a way of life for many Mi'kmaw families. We honour all those Mi'kmaw families who kept the tradition alive.

I now ask Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy and Grand Keptin Andrew Denny to come forward and unveil this year's Mi'kmaq History Month Poster.

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