

# Office of Aboriginal Affairs

## Mission Statement

Leads negotiations on Aboriginal and treaty rights with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and the Federal Government, coordinates and facilitates consultation between the Provincial Government and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, represents provincial interests on Aboriginal matters, provides strategic policy advice to government in fostering social and economic prosperity in Aboriginal communities, and works to increase public awareness and understanding of Aboriginal issues.

## Core Responsibilities and Services

### NEGOTIATIONS

Through the formal tripartite Made-in-Nova Scotia process, advances issues related to Mi'kmaq treaty rights, Aboriginal rights, including Aboriginal Title and Mi'kmaq governance. The negotiation process enhances legal clarity on rights issues, maintains stable relations, and reduces economic and social disparity.

### CONSULTATION

Coordinates the Province's consultation process with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and the federal government through the Consultation Terms of Reference, which lays out the consultation process to address potential impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights. Provides policy leadership, guidance, and advice to government departments regarding the duty to consult with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

### POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Through working collaboratively with Aboriginal communities and organizations, and with other levels of government, coordinates Aboriginal and tripartite initiatives with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and the federal government, and builds and maintains a sustainable foundation for Aboriginal-Government relations. As a central agency, provides ongoing horizontal coordination, guidance, and effective strategic advice on a wide range of departmental policies, initiatives, issues, and opportunities.

### PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Provides corporate leadership on the development of Treaty Education and resources for the general public, schools, public servants, and other targeted audiences that support increasing awareness on Aboriginal history, culture, and current day issues.

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Administrative update: **November 7, 2017**

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