



MI'KMAQ CONFEDERACY OF PEI

2024-2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

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Message from Co-Chairs

Since April 2002, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI) has been focused on advancing the well-being of Epekwitknewaq Mi'kmaq and Indigenous Peoples living in Epekwitk. As a Tribal Council, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI works closely with member First Nations to provide technical support, capacity development, programming and services.

Over the last year, significant efforts have been made to advocate at all levels of government to ensure that Mi'kmaq voices, values, and ways of knowing are meaningfully reflected in public policy and legislation. We have been working closely with community partners to drive systemic change and reshape how programs and services are delivered – ensuring that they are inclusive, culturally grounded, and responsive to the needs and strengths of Epekwitknewaq Mi'kmaq and the broader Indigenous community here in Epekwitk.

Areas of focus include child and family services, education, employment, health, justice, integrated resource management, and sport. In addition to these core programs, we partnered with government programs to make essential services more accessible to community members including providing support with Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) applications and offering services in community such as health cards, drivers licenses, voluntary IDs and more.

In recent years, MCPEI has embraced change, with the addition of a sister organization, L'nuey, under the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils (EAC). L'nuey is focused on protecting and advancing treaty rights including negotiations, consultation, and governance development. The evolution reflects the respective visions and priorities of Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations, positioning MCPEI to respond effectively and support the needs of our communities.

We invite you to explore this resource to learn more about the many programs and services offered throughout the 2024-2025 fiscal year, highlighting some of the recent efforts and progress achieved. As we look ahead, we will continue to prioritize and guide this important work over the coming years, helping us build on our momentum while addressing the challenges and opportunities ahead.

With gratitude and hope for the future,



Chief Darlene Bernard

Chief of Lennox Island
First Nation

*Co-Chair of Epekwitk
Assembly of Councils*



Chief Junior Gould

Chief of Abegweit First
Nation

*Co-Chair of Epekwitk
Assembly of Councils*

Message from the Executive Director

Pjila'si | Welcome

On behalf of the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, I'm pleased to share our 2024-2025 Year In Review. As we reflect on the past year, I am proud of the progress we have made together and grateful for the leadership and support that has guided us along the way. This report is more than just a recap of our efforts from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 – it's a reflection of who we are, a celebration of the communities we work for, and a summary of hard work over the past year.



Throughout the year, we have reached significant milestones, strengthened our program and services, and remained focused on building meaningful relationships. These achievements exemplify the care and dedication of our team. Within this document, you will learn about the values that drives our work forward, for the betterment of Mi'kmaq and Indigenous Peoples living in Epekwitk (PEI).

The work we do would not be possible without the leadership and guidance of our two First Nations Chiefs and Councillors, who make up the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils. Their direction and knowledge are invaluable, ensuring that our programs and services meet the needs of Epekwitknewaq Mi'kmaq and the broader Indigenous community here in Epekwitk. It is through their support that we continue to make meaningful progress, and we are honoured to work under their leadership as we continue to build a stronger organization.

I would also like to thank our funding parties - the Government of Canada, the Province of Prince Edward Island, and local community partners - who provide the resources needed to bring our mission, vision, and values to life. Their support allows us to continue to evolve and grow, address evolving challenges, and deliver impactful programs and services.

As we continue to strengthen our foundation and look ahead to 2025-2026, we are excited to build on this momentum and continue to grow as an organization. Wela'lioq (thank you) for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Coade". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Kateri Coade

Executive Director

Epekwitk Assembly of Councils

The Epekwitk Assembly of Councils (EAC) is the joint forum that oversees and governs organizations that act in the shared interest of Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation. Bringing together the Band Councils of both First Nations, the Assembly currently administers two organizations that are provincial in scope: L'nuey and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI.



EPEKWITK ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILS

Full Councils of the Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations



MI'KMAQ
CONFEDERACY OF PEI



MI'KMAQ CONFEDERACY OF PEI

The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI's role is to deliver shared programs and services on behalf of both First Nations, as well as, serving as a Tribal Council that provides advisory and technical support to each First Nation's administration.

L'NUEY

L'nuey's mandate is focused on protecting and advancing the Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq, including negotiations, consultation, and governance development.

Who We Are

Operating under the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI is a Tribal Council that was first established on April 2nd, 2002. As a non-profit organization, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI provides technical support, capacity development, programming, and advisory services to its member First Nations – Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation.

VISION

Supporting an empowered Mi'kmaq and Indigenous community in the journey toward self-determination.

MISSION

We respond and collaborate to evolve with community needs through advisory services and shared programs.

VALUES

COMMUNITY

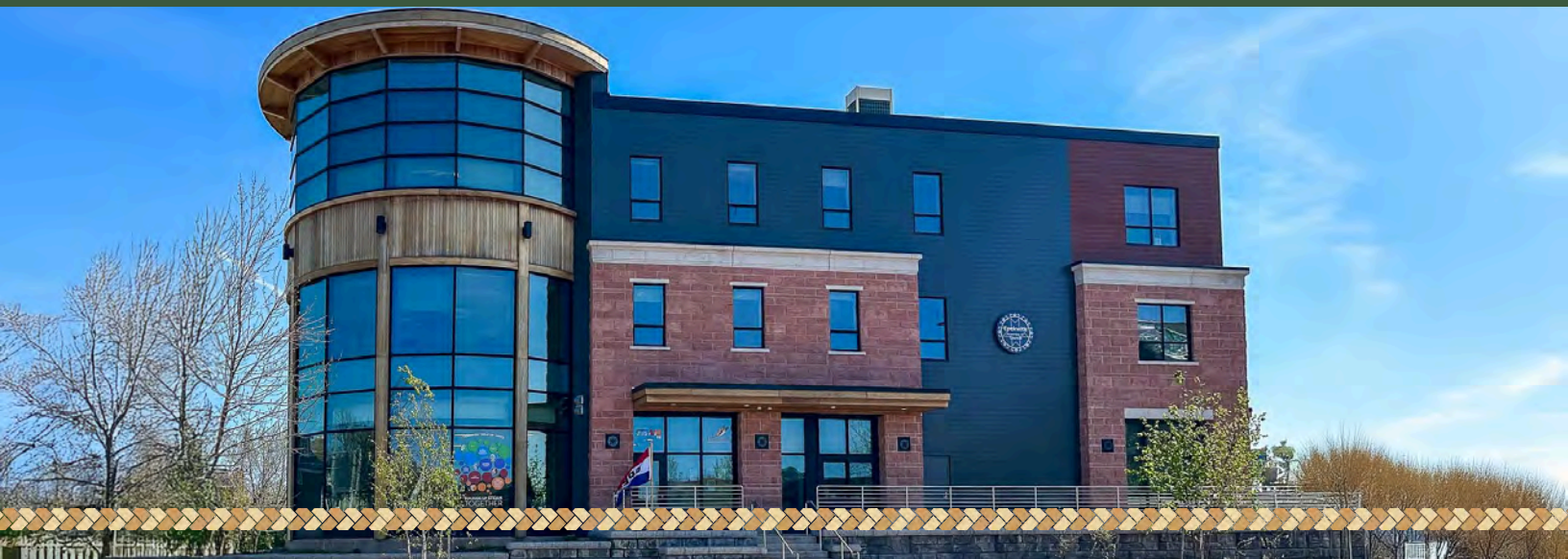
Listen, respond, and adapt to diverse community needs. Build community into all that we do and as we work together. Respect each other, community values, and individual needs.

COLLABORATION

Collaborate with the community, individuals and families to best meet their needs. Build trust and work as a team. Be accountable to the community we serve and to each other.

CULTURE

Recognize Mi'kmaq and Indigenous ways of knowing, doing, and being. Acknowledge, respect and incorporate Indigenous knowledge, perspectives, and approaches. Facilitate culturally safe spaces and environments.



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Leatherback Sea Turtle

QUICK FACTS

- Listed as Endangered under the *Species at Risk Act*.
- Weigh up to 640 kg.
- Carapace length up to 1.75 meters.
- Females lay about 80 eggs per nest.

They have a le protective cover shells of other

Where Leatherback Sea Turtles are commonly found

Leatherback Sea Turtles are found in the Atlantic Ocean between the United States off Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Florida in the winter, and the temperate waters of the coast of Atlantic Canada in the spring through

- Juvenile turtles spend the next years of their life in seaweed beds and on ocean currents.
- Once Leatherbacks reach maturity they migrate between breeding and feeding

REPORTING

If you see a Leatherback Sea Turtle, please sighting to Canadian Sea Turtle Network
Phone: 1 888 729-4667 Web: seaturtle.ca

Education

The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI Education program was established to support Mi'kmaq learners of Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations, including the broader Indigenous community living on and off reserve. Support is provided by identifying needs, offering technical advice and advocacy, and building relationships with educational partners to guarantee access to high-quality education and support services.

ACADEMIC SUPPORTS

Providing academic and educational supports to Mi'kmaq and Indigenous learners is a major focus within the MCPEI Education program. Purchasing of learning and support materials for students and educational facilities occurs consistently based upon requests from First Nations, Band-operated facilities and individual circumstances. Direct specialized support for learners such as speech and language, occupational therapy, and educational assessments have also been provided.

CULTURALLY RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development opportunities for Educators have been requested and supported throughout the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Land-based learning and other professional development opportunities were provided to educators of Lennox Island First Nation. Blanket Exercises for PEI and Band-operated educators and other targeted audiences were supported, as well as, professional development of PEI social studies teachers through teachings and experiential learnings.

MI'KMAQ CENTERED CURRICULUM AND RESOURCES

Band-operated and PEI public school educators have been requesting that more Epekwitk centered curricula and resources be available. To help address this, MCPEI Education has secured funding that will enable the production of, and/or acquisition of, localized, Mi'kmaq centered, curricula and resources for Band-operated and PEI public schools. In addition to supporting educators, the developed materials may also be useful in educating partners and society in general.



RELATIONSHIP BUILDING WITH EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Building and progressing partnerships is also a key area within MCPEI Education. Within the Atlantic Veterinary College and the School of Medicine at UPEI, each has agreed to set up dedicated seats within each. The Atlantic Veterinarian College is establishing four dedicated Indigenous seats. Seats will be held for qualified Indigenous applicants. One seat each, for qualified applicants from: Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland/Labrador. Similarly, the UPEI School of Medicine has established one Indigenous seat for a qualified applicant.

Another advancement made in partnerships with First Nations and the PEI Department of Education and Early Years, is the establishment of a Reconciliation Education Consultant within the PEI Department of Education and Early Years. This person will lead the integration of Mi'kmaq ways of knowing into curricula of PEI public schools and support educators. The PEI Department of Education and Early Years has also committed to developing local pilot programs at Westisle Composite High School. These pilot programs will be offered for two years and then would be available to be offered within all PEI high schools. Course topics being considered include: a Mi'kmaq Studies program currently being offered in Nova Scotia schools as well as courses centered around Treaty Education and Mi'kmaq language.

Employment Services

Under a contribution agreement signed in 2019 between the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI) and the federal department of Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), the MCPEI Employment Services team administers employment-based programs and services to Indigenous people living in Epekwitk. This includes status, non-status First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples living on and off reserve.



CLIENT-BASED EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

Throughout the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the employment team has worked hard to provide high quality, culturally appropriate employment and skills development-based programs and services to clients who were unemployed, and/or underemployed. The program has helped people reach higher levels of work-related participation with various opportunities happening in both Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation. There has been a steady increase in participation in the local labour market with community members entering the workforce with private businesses, governments, and with not-for-profit organizations. Clients are engaged in their career plans and continue to work hard, exploring career choices, gaining real hands-on work experience, and participating in industry related training initiatives.

To date this year, MCPEI Employment Services has partnered with over 50 valuable industry partners. These partnerships have been instrumental in providing work placements with over 75 approved targeted wage subsidies funded through the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Program and the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA). Program staff are excited to share that 43 clients have been supported in skills development training, education, and work supports. These supports are a combination of tuition costs, bus passes, specialized equipment required at work or school. Other supports have included pre-employment industry certification such as CPR & First Aid training, Marine Emergency Duties (MED), and Traffic Control to name a few.

These key partnerships have allowed us to develop and roll out meaningful initiatives to leverage additional funding supports and shared resources to offer more comprehensive services designed to assist our client's overcome employment and/or training barriers.



LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Abegweit First Nation Adult Education program is an example of an opportunity and results that occurred through meaningful and long-lasting partnerships. With the instruction and facilitation offered by Holland College, this program is in its 15th year with eight full time participants. MCPEI Employment Services is proud to support this very important community program. The ongoing results are a true example that with strong leadership and support from our partners; community members will have incredible personal success throughout their employment journeys. With ongoing funding contributions from Skills PEI, this program can return year after year which allows community members to work with our employment counsellors to build and achieve set career and educational goals.

A partnership that began over 10 years ago between Lennox Island First Nation, MCPEI Employment Services, and Workplace Learning PEI continues to bloom. In October of 2024, the Workplace Essential Skills (WES – Lennox Island) welcomed a full complement of 10 participants. Once again, Skills PEI provided the full cost of this program. The success of this program continues to be from the hard-working community members who are dedicated to their individual learning plans. Although the focus of the program is to increase participants essential workplace skills and personal education levels; the Employment Services team continues to incorporate Mi'kmaq cultural teachings, Indigenous traditions, and flexible work school life balance. In October 2024, MCPEI was awarded the Canada's Premiers 2024 Council of the Federation Literacy Award. Chief Darlene Bernard along with Executive Director, Kateri Coade, and MCPEI Employment Services staff attended the award ceremony with our partners at Workplace Learning PEI and Skills PEI to accept the award.



PROJECT-BASED EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As a complement to the ISETS program, MCPEI Employment Services administers the Skills Partnership Fund (SPF) program. Signed in February 2022, the SPF is a demand-driven program that is supported through strategic industry and government partnerships. The SPF project is referred to as Wel-lug'wet which means 'Do Good Work'. There are five individual projects supported in the five-year funding agreement which ends March 2028. The main objective is to contribute to the skills development and training of Indigenous workers towards long-term, meaningful employment through social enterprise development.

ABEGWEIT FIRST NATION

Working directly with Abegweit First Nation in the development of two community enterprises known as 'Abegweit Construction' and 'Abegweit Hospitality'. Together a total of 11 community members have been supported in their work placements in construction and maintenance. The project works directly with Abegweit First Nation in partnership to support the many homes and infrastructure that is happening in community. In addition, five community members have been directly involved in Abegweit Hospitality. Connected through the Community Economic Development plans; Abegweit Hospitality is designed to help support Abegweit First Nation in their efforts in building new and exciting opportunities linked to tourism, Mi'kmaq products, and traditional celebrations.

LENNOX ISLAND FIRST NATION

In Lennox Island First Nation, the SPF projects are focused on tourism and aquaculture. MCPEI Employment Services is working closely with Lennox Island Development Corporation and Band departments in the development of Malpek Events & Hospitality and Malpek Oyster. To date, 11 community members have been employed with Malpek Events & Hospitality while 10 members have participated in Malpek Oysters. Like the other projects, each business development is supported with the expertise and guidance of Industry Sector Experts who understand the skills, duties, and overall requirements needed to succeed in each industry. The day-to-day activities are managed by the partnership and business developers who are key to ensuring our objectives are being met while businesses and partnerships are developed.

URBAN – CHARLOTTETOWN

In Charlottetown, MCPEI has established El'taqati'kw Digital Studio (We Create) which is a training hub for clients interested in technology, IT, and digital marketing. In combination of full and part time paid training placements; seven community members with connection to Abegweit First Nation, Lennox Island First Nation, or other Indigenous heritage are using their artistic talents, IT skills, and social media interests to learn and engage in the digital world. Clients are engaging in activities to learn about the industry, and the various job opportunities available in this sector. El'taqati'kw Digital Studio has actively been involved in creating logo's, designs, and marketing materials for project partners, government departments and for portfolio creation. It is all about learning by doing with the support of real-life projects, and industry requests.

The Employment Services program is excited to share that all five projects are exceeding the projected results outlined in the agreement. The SPF continues to contribute to many exciting opportunities hosted in the communities and across Epekwitk. Some examples include the Fall Flavours hosted by Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation. Considerable involvement in the Atlantic Indigenous Tourism Summit provided key learning, work experience and training in marketing, digital design and hosting large events. With over 200 people from Atlantic Canada and from across the Nation, our participants exceeded all expectations by demonstrating professional work and products proving the program is working.

Family PRIDE (First Nations Child and Family Services)

Operating within Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations communities, the program provides prevention and intervention services and supports to children, youth, and families. The program includes a team of youth workers, social workers, family support workers, legal advisor, and a child and family therapist. Staff engage with community members, either individually or in groups, to offer a range of preventative programming that ensures the safety and healthy development of children and families.

Programming and services includes, but is not limited to:

- In-home supports and family strengthening programs
- Well-being services, including cultural and recreational activities
- Clinical therapy for children and families at risk
- Funding for addictions and mental health treatment
- Transportation support for appointments that help well-being and risk prevention
- Advocacy and supports for families who come in contact with Child Protection Services
- Emergency funding for an alternative caregiver to prevent children from being placed in care and support to meet the basic needs of the child
- Emergency funding for food, diapers, and baby food
- Legal support for adoption and mediation
- Parent education and awareness
- Youth mentorship
- Respite support

INCREASED PROGRAM DELIVERY AND SERVICES

Over the last fiscal year, MCPEI has built a great team of staff who have continued to work on developing positive relationships with children, youth, and families. The team collaborates with each community in creating programs and offering services that meet the needs of children and families. Additional staff positions were added to provide primary prevention activities that focused on building protective factors within families and remediating risks to children.

Over the last year, the team has partnered with various groups and programs to provide prevention activities within each First Nation community. This collaborative approach has helped fill gaps in service for children, families, youth, and caregivers resulting in better outcomes for Indigenous children. Training opportunities were provided to staff to strengthen program development and delivery, with a focus on Indigenous specific parenting programs and trauma informed practices.

CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROGRAM OPERATING SPACE

The Family PRIDE program is in the initial phases of working on capital infrastructure projects for both First Nation communities. Each community will benefit from the construction of a new building that will offer both dedicated office and community gathering space. The new facilities will create more private one-on-one appointment and meeting rooms to help ensure confidentiality and improve access to supports. The building will also include welcoming areas designed for community use where families can gather, youth programming can run, or cultural activities can take place.

In addition, each community is working on the development of a therapeutic care home. These homes will offer a safe, comfortable, and home-like environment for family access visits, parenting supports, and programming.

As a first step, the unique community needs assessments for the capital infrastructure projects have been completed. MCPEI looks forward to making more progress on this important project in the next fiscal year. While plans continue to develop, the program has made changes to current operating spaces in both communities. These changes were in response to the programs growth and to better meet the needs of children, youth, and families:

- **Lennox Island First Nation:** This year, the team within Lennox Island First Nation moved into a new location on Blueberry Trail in Lennox Island. Positive feedback has been received from clients on the new location which has resulted in an increase in clients accessing our supports. The new office is more accessible for community members to stop in and connect with our staff, in turn building stronger relationships with the families we support. The new office also allows the program to facilitate more youth groups, parent groups, and cultural activities in Lennox Island. We have been able to focus on outreach and prevention activities mitigate risk to children.
- **Abegweit First Nation:** Minor renovations were completed on the programming space, located on Sandstone Road in Scotchfort, PE. These renovations have provided an updated professional environment that includes more functional space.



PARTNERSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Over the last fiscal year, MCPEI Family PRIDE has partnered with the province on recruitment and retention of foster parents and respite care providers. The program facilitated a full-day training opportunity for foster parents and hopes to make this an annual event. The Family PRIDE program also supports monthly meetings for Indigenous foster parents including a Caregivers Circle Gathering to provide a place for foster parents to connect and access additional training opportunities. The program continues to facilitate engagement opportunities between each First Nation and the province on matters that impact Mi'kmaq children, families and youth.

The new provincial Child Family and Youth Services Act came into effect in September of 2024. MCPEI continues to work with the province to ensure the implementation of this new legislation is culturally appropriate, consistent with Mi'kmaq customs and the federal legislation.

MCPEI continues to work with families who come into contact with provincial Child Protection Services to support children, youth and families. Case plans are developed with families to help mitigate risk and support better outcomes for children. Our program also supports alternative care placements for children to remain in the care of their families and within their communities, when safety concerns have been confirmed in their family of origin.



Health

The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI Health program is dedicated to improving the overall health and well-being of First Nations communities in Epekwitk through health partnerships, advocacy, program development, service delivery, education and awareness, holistic care, and health promotion.



HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY

Over the past year, MCPEI worked closely with community health partners to advocate for improved services and to ensure new programs and services address the unique needs of First Nations communities. Through active participation in regional committees and working groups, we advanced community-identified priorities, strengthened partnerships, and promoted high-quality, culturally informed care. Some key initiatives and achievements include, but are not limited to:

Atlantic First Nations Health Partnerships

- Advocated for anti-Indigenous racism funding and patient navigator roles.
- Pushed for increased funding and improved processes for Jordan's Principal.
- Worked with community Health Directors to ensure Epekwitk's priorities were voiced at regional planning tables.

Atlantic First Nations Midwifery Engagement

- Collaborated with provincial midwives to embed Mi'kmaq culture in service delivery, and to ensure equitable access for Mi'kmaq families if they choose to engage with this service.
- Supported the development of training opportunities for local midwives, ensuring curriculum is culturally informed.

Atlantic First Nations Professional Development Advisory Group

- Organized professional development for First Nations community nurses based on locally identified needs.
- Collected feedback from nurses to ensure their educational needs are met at training opportunities.

Atlantic First Nations Public Health and Primary Care Committee

- Organized local training opportunities in areas such as pap smears, venipuncture, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
- Helped organize a two-day communicable disease workshop to update staff on changes in practices and protocols with regards to emerging health concerns such as; measles, RSV, immunization programs, and sexually transmitted and blood-borne diseases.

Bilateral Home and Community Care Working Group

- Improved communication pathways between provincial and First Nations programs to ensure patients receive optimal care.
- Advocated for timely access to medical supplies and essential services.

Bilateral Public Health Working Group

- Advocated for real-time information sharing to ensure equitable care.

Diabetes Working Group

- Advocated for diabetes training and certification for staff in community to improve access and health outcomes.
- Developed policies to enhance community-based diabetes care.

First Nations Data Health Advisory and E Health

- Worked to enhance First Nations access to EMR systems and digital tools.
- Supported data sovereignty initiatives and the use of analytics to guide care.

Home and Community Care Professional Development Team

- Provided various training opportunities such as foot care and wound care training.
- Hosted a Skills Boot Camp for Atlantic First Nations nurses to learn skills such as medication reconciliation, dressings, skin care, dementia care, assessment skills, and more.
- Reviewed and developed policies to support best practices in cleaning and sterilization of foot care equipment, and proper wound care provision.

Province of PEI Cancer Prevention Strategy

- Working with the province to ensure patients are up to date on cancer prevention screening.
- Helped organize prevention screening clinics in community to update patient status.
- Offered health education sessions on topics such as palliative care, advanced care planning, sun care, and MAID to support patients.
- Contributed to the Pallium Canada Project and the integration of Mi'kmaq culture in palliative care training.



EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

MCPEI Health aims to empower community members through health education and awareness, enabling them to manage their own health and wellbeing journey. Health education empowers patients to actively participate in their personal health journey in collaboration with their health care team. Culturally appropriate and trauma sensitive care are integrated into all aspects of care and are enhanced through education and engagement activities supporting cultural growth within the community and staff.

LEARNING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Investing in the development of healthcare staff is key to improving access and quality of care. This includes expanding teams, offering targeted training, and rethinking how care is delivered. Several professional development events helped build skills among staff and improved service delivery throughout the year:

- **Health Emergency Management Conference:** Brought together Atlantic First Nations participants to focus on psychological resilience and burnout prevention.
- **Home and Community Care Skills Camp (Dalhousie Medical School):** Offered hands-on training for providing innovative care in home settings.
- **Home and Community Care Conference:** Helped nurses build skills and expand their professional competencies.

These are just a few examples that reflect MCPEI's ongoing commitment to strengthening First Nations health systems through continuous learning and capacity building. Wela'lioq to the two First Nations health centres for their on-going collaboration, guidance, and leadership.





CULTURAL SUPPORT AND TRAUMA INFORMED CARE PROGRAMS

MCPEI Health is committed to supporting Survivors and their families throughout their healing journeys. The program provides collaborative, needs-based services tailored to each Survivor and their family/support system. Celebrating the strength and resilience of each Survivor is an important part of honoring those who are involved in the program.

Indian Residential School, Indian Day School, and Trauma Informed Support Services

- Referral supports for therapists and counsellors
- Indian Day School reconsideration letters
- Emotional and cultural support groups and engagement sessions
- Group Art therapy in partnership with the Indigenous Family Resource Centre
- Drumming groups

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Supports

- Active participation in the Provincial MMIWG Working Group
- Advocating and participating in the Women and Gender Diverse Working Group
- Red Dress Day Committee
- Organizing and supporting community events to promote awareness and education

Cultural Supports

- First Nations Wellness and Healing Circle working group
- Consultation and Collaboration with Health PEI and the College of Registered Nurses and Midwives of PEI regarding the integration of Mi'kmaq culture into their documents, policies and practices.
- Hosting Blanket Exercises to promote awareness and facilitate Mi'kmaq culture education
- National Day of Truth and Reconciliation awareness

Integrated Resource Management

With a focus on environmental stewardship and sustainability, MCPEI's Integrated Resource Management (IRM) program provides technical advice and assistance to First Nations communities in Epekwitk on various aspects of resources and resource management including: fisheries and aquaculture, forestry management, oceans management, research and land use interviews, solid waste management, and climate change adaptation.



FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Over the 2024-2025 fiscal year, a new five-year Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management (AAROM) agreement was negotiated with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), in collaboration with member First Nations. This new agreement will support the AAROM program to 2029, with a renewed focus on supporting member First Nations as they continue to build out their Fisheries and Natural Resource Departments.

IRM provided support, through mentoring and funding, to youth education initiatives in Abegweit First Nation, and supported the establishment of the Guardians Program in Lennox Island. MCPEI looks forward to providing continued support to both initiatives in the upcoming years. Throughout the year, IRM collaborated with Parks Canada on ecological work within Pituamakek National Park, as well as continued research on striped bass in PEI waters for the fourth year. This research was completed in collaboration with Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations, with support from DFO Science. The goal of the work is to increase our understanding of striped bass habitat use in PEI estuaries and coastal waters while engaging Mi'kmaq community members in the process and to strengthen interest from a biological, recreational, and/or commercial fisheries perspective.

This was also the year that MSX, a parasite the cause high mortality rates in oysters, was found in PEI waters. IRM has participated in planning meetings with member First Nations, the shellfish industry, and federal and provincial departments as a path forward for the industry is being developed.

FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

Our work in forestry management continued this year with IRM working with member First Nations and federal and provincial partners to take part in Forested Landscape Priority Places (FLPP). Under the FLPP, IRM staff conducted site visits of Black Ash stands to check if the trees produced seeds, as they only do every seven years. Black Ash locations were mapped using GIS, enabling IRM to know specific locations of Black Ash for seed and health checks.

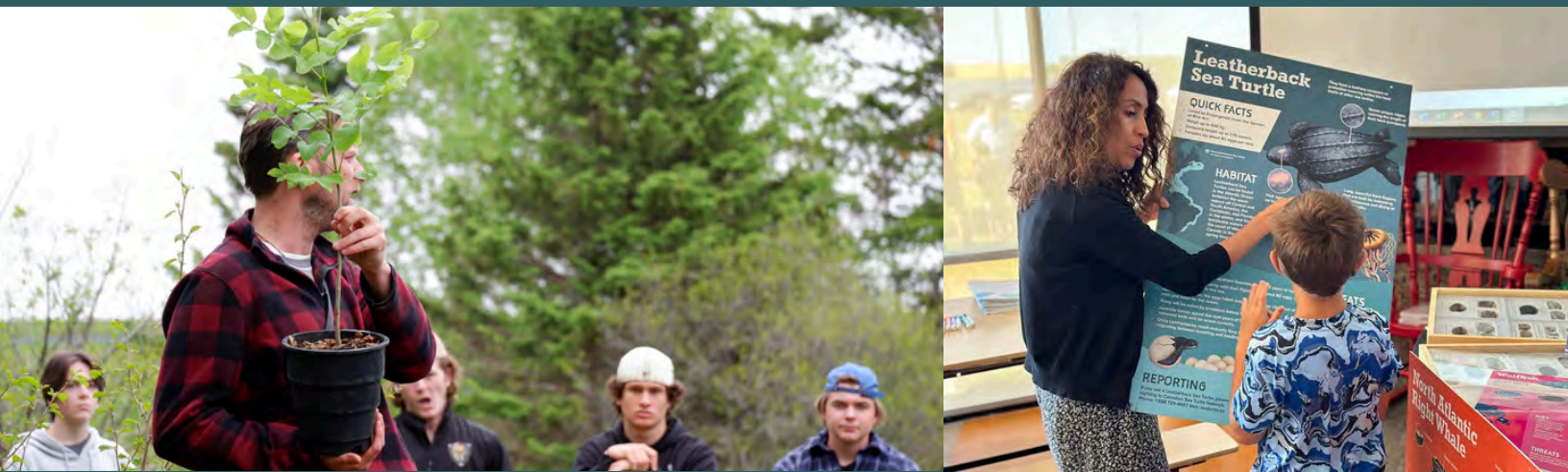
MCPEI took part in a working group with member First Nations and other parties to discuss how to prepare for when the Emerald Ash Borer, currently found in NB and NS, makes its way to PEI. The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive beetle that attacks and kills all species of ash and poses a serious risk to Black Ash stands in PEI.

IRM worked with a local Indigenous herbalist and healer to conduct guided medicine walks, develop medicine wheel gardens, and document an inventory of culturally significant Mi'kmaq plants.

OCEANS MANAGEMENT

MCPEI continues to work with our federal partners on cultural planning at the Basin Head Marine Protected Area. This year was our first year of programming and we'd like to thank the Mi'kmaq Heritage Actors for their involvement. We look forward to continuing this work, with a larger scope, for summer 2025, as well as supporting the 20th year anniversary of the Basin Head Marine Protected Area.

The MCPEI IRM team initiated a 'Coastie' program with Parks Canada. This initiative lets people act as citizen scientists by taking pictures at specific locations in PEI to provide a time series analysis at these locations. Visit www.coastiecanada.ca for more information!



RESEARCH AND LAND USE INTERVIEWS

Since its inception in 2004, the Mi'kmaq Land Use project has been an important initiative in preserving and celebrating Indigenous knowledge regarding the land and waters of Epekwitk, and we were happy to continue leading this important initiative in 2024.

Our Mi'kmaq Land Use Interviewer and Field Researcher completed interviews with community members to listen to their knowledge about historical and current hunting grounds, fishing spots, camping sites, and other cultural landmarks. Locations identified in the interviews are mapped using GIS software. IRM uses the information provided to guide our science and research initiatives related to resource management. The information is also used to support land use and consultation discussions.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Solid Waste Management continues to be a core aspect of MCPEI IRM programming. IRM provided support to community composting programs and community greenhouse and gardens. IRM also facilitated a waste audit for the second year in a row both First Nations communities. The waste audits provide data that supports each First Nation in their waste management and reduction goals.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Climate change adaptation and mitigation is becoming more of a focus for MCPEI and member First Nations every year. IRM partnered with CLIMAtlantic on the development of a flood mapping project for reserves. IRM also participated in collaborative planning meetings to discuss upcoming climate change fund availability through National Resources Canada's Coastal Communities.

Throughout the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the IRM program began planning for an Atlantic Climate Gathering - a two-day workshop that will host First Nations from across Atlantic Canada in April 2025 to discuss current research and work on climate change, and foster collaborations between First Nations and federal partners on new projects.

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

IIRM supported member First Nations as they developed a two-day workshop on Indigenous Knowledge Systems. This workshop brought together community members and project partners to illustrate the importance of Indigenous Knowledge to First Nations and how partners should treat and respect these teachings. A big congratulations to the natural resource departments in both member First Nations for creating and hosting this valuable workshop.

MCPEI also provided the opportunity for members of Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation to take part in the First Nations principles of ownership, control, access, and possession (OCAP®). This training introduces OCAP® principles and highlights the importance of OCAP® for First Nations Data. More information on OCAP® training can be found here: <https://fnigc.ca/ocap-training/take-the-course/>.



Indigenous Justice

The Indigenous Justice program provides important legal support services to all Indigenous Peoples living in Epekwitk. A variety of supports are offered on an on-going basis, including in-court support, case management, community outreach, education and awareness, referral services, reintegration support, Gladue reports, and justice circles.

Over the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the MCPEI Indigenous Justice program has seen a steady increase in referrals and program requests. The senior program coordinator, case manager, and court worker continue to work together to strengthen service delivery, presence within the communities, and the overall long-term vision and direction of the program. Considerable efforts have been made to maintain a consistent presence within the Courts and to be a reliable partner with community organizations.

CLIENT SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

- An online digital Accountability Resource Management System was completed, and the team has been using this new system since April , 2024. This system manages client information and increases confidentiality to improve service delivery.
- The Court Worker provides daily support throughout the Court process. This work has allowed clients to move through the system in a timely manner and assisted in reducing Court time.
- The Case Manager works to identify barriers, facilitate rehabilitation, and provide access to cultural support services. The Case Manager has increased communication with probation services to address issues before further criminalization. The opportunity for healing through drumming workshops, medicine pouches, and sweats have helped address the deep-rooted needs to support healing journeys.
- Professional development and training opportunities have taken place over the last year to empower staff in their roles and help them advocate for clients. This has helped guide the overall vision and direction of the Indigenous Justice Program.



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND HEALING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Justice Circles:** The Indigenous Justice program offers a range of justice circles, including pre-intervention, alternative measures (diversion), and sentencing circles as alternatives to the traditional court process. Additional circles — such as conflict resolution, sharing, talking, and healing circles—are available outside the justice system and open to referrals from individuals, community members, schools, employers, and more. All Circles are guided by Elders and trained Circle Keepers to ensure a safe and respectful space. For more information or to make a referral, please contact the Indigenous Justice team at 902-439-4816.
- **Gladue Reports:** Gladue Reports are requested by the Court following a guilty plea or verdict, allowing individuals to share their unique life circumstances. Upon referral and after careful consideration, MCPEI matches the individual with a Gladue writer. The report process involves in-depth conversations with the individual and, when appropriate, their family or support networks. Reports take several weeks to complete, allowing for a thoughtful and respectful approach. Once finalized, the report is reviewed with the individual before being submitted to the Court, Crown, and Defence.
- **Healing Workshops and Cultural Programming:** The program offers cultural workshops that foster healing and community connection. Over the past year, MCPEI hosted drumming circles with Elders, medicine pouch making, and beading sessions. These workshops provide a relaxed setting for peer support and cultural learning.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- An information session with community leads, probation services, parole officers, victim services, and RCMP took place. This meeting allowed for an informal discussion on roles, learning about different sentencings, conditions, and responsibilities.
- Throughout the year, free legal clinics were scheduled in partnership with the Community Legal Information Justice Avenues Program. The program can be accessed at any time and is designed to assist clients with criminal and family law.
- The Indigenous Justice program was pleased to take part and support youth summer camps for both Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations.
- A ceremony was held at the PEI Human Rights Commission on July 17, 2024 to present an Eagle feather that can be used by Indigenous Peoples when testifying. Training on the proper care and protection of the Eagle feather was provided. This request was initiated after the introduction of the Eagle feather in the provincial Courtrooms.
- An Indigenous Justice Gathering was held on October 18, 2024 at the PEI Convention Centre in Charlottetown. Esteemed key-speakers included Senator Kim Pate, Judge Laurel Halfpenny-MacQuarrie, and Dr. Pam Palmater. The theme of the conference was *Indigenous Women & Girls in the Criminal Justice System*. Tona, a woman with lived experience attended with Senator Pate. The Gathering brought together over 150 people who work within the criminal justice system, social services, and/or support roles. A tour of the Provincial Correctional Facility was scheduled for Senator Pate during her visit in Epekwitk.
- MCPEI hosted a Kairos Blanket Exercise to community justice partners including the Judiciary from all three courts. The Blanket Exercise is an interactive and experiential teaching tool that explores the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. The feedback from participants each time has been extremely positive indicating that the exercise was extremely powerful and helpful in understanding Indigenous communities.



Sport Circle

The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI Sport Circle program supports the development and delivery of sport, recreation, and physical activity for Indigenous youth living in Epekwitk. This includes status, non-status First Nations, Métis and Inuit people living on and off reserve.



SPORT AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Over the last year, the Sport Circle worked closely with Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation to identify the unique sport and recreation needs of their communities. By partnering with community members and staff, the Sport Circle was successful in developing, delivering, and supporting several opportunities for youth including:

- Youth Fun Runs
- Hop On Bike Fest with Cycling PEI
- Charlottetown Islanders Community Ball Hockey Game
- Volleyball Player Development Clinics
- Summer Sport Programs – Archery and Track and Field
- Summer Camps – Lacrosse, Flag Football, Golf
- Mount Stewart After-School Program

Additionally, the Sport Circle hosted a series of introductory sport sessions where Indigenous youth had the opportunity to try new sports in a fun and supportive environment. These events were designed to create interest and build confidence in various physical activities, including: curling, biathlon, snow shoeing, ball hockey, archery, lacrosse, flag football, volleyball, and golf.

COACH AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Sport Circle continues to enhance coach and leadership development by increasing the number of Indigenous coaches, volunteers, and sport leaders in Epekwitk. One of the key initiatives this year was the Indigenous coach and leadership program, which provided a welcoming environment for new and experienced coaches to learn about the National Coaching Certification program. Through this workshop, participants had the opportunity to develop coaching pathways, complete certification courses, and connect with others in the Indigenous sport community.

Additionally, the Sport Circle facilitated the Aboriginal Coaching Modules (ACM) to strengthen support for Indigenous athletes. The ACM is a national coach training curriculum that reflects the uniqueness of Indigenous culture, values and lifestyles. Originally designed for coaches of Indigenous heritage, the program has been expanded to include non-Indigenous coaches. Wela'lloq to the organizations who completed the ACM certification during the 2024-2025 fiscal year:

- Special Olympics PEI staff and volunteers
- UPEI Kinesiology Program
- Holland College Sport & Recreation Management Program

Through these programs, the Sport Circle is building a stronger and inclusive network of trained leaders in sport across the province.

SPORT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing and respecting that there are many important cultural approaches to health and wellness in Indigenous communities, the definition of sport may include self-determined social development goals of communities and program participants. Through physical activity, communities can improve not only physical well-being, but also other social determinants of health such as well-being, education, employability, and reduce at-risk behaviour.

Throughout the year, the Sport Circle demonstrated its commitment to sport for social development by organizing Indigenous Sport and Culture Gatherings, including female empowerment camps and mens retreats, that provided opportunities for youth to engage in physical activity and cultural activities.

THE ROAD TO NAIG 2027

The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) are held every four years and bring together over 5,000 Indigenous youth from across Canada and the United States. Athletes compete in various sports, including traditional Indigenous sports, all while celebrating and honouring their cultural heritage.

Planning has officially begun for the 2027 North American Indigenous Games that will take place in Calgary, Alberta. These games will take place in the territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani Nations), the Tsuut'ina Nation, and the Îyâxe Nakoda (Bears paw, Chiniki, and Goodstoney Nations). Calgary is also home to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Districts 5 & 6.

The North American Indigenous Games Council announced two age categories that will be eligible to compete at the 2027 Games: U18 (Born in 2009, 2010, 2011) and U15 (Born 2012, 2013, 2014). Epekwitk will begin its Road to NAIG 2027 with a kick-off event in April 2025.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING WITH SPORT PARTNERS

The Sport Circle continues to seek opportunities with community partners to raise awareness of the importance of sport and recreation opportunities for Indigenous youth. Throughout the year, the Sport Circle presented to the following community partners:

- Sport PEI Member Associations
- Holland College Sport & Recreation Management Program
- Physical Education teachers
- Province of PEI's Sport Department Staff

The Sport Circle partnered with various community groups to provide meaningful opportunities for Indigenous youth including:

- Prince County Boys & Girls Club Stick Together Program
- National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Charlottetown Islanders Hockey Game



Essential Services

SECURE STATUS CARD PROGRAM

The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI collaborated with Indigenous Services Canada to better assist individuals wishing to apply for, renew, or replace their Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS). As a designated Trusted Source Organization, MCPEI assisted with completing and submitting applications, certifying required documentation, gathering identification and requisite photographs, and eliminating the need for a guarantor. This service was offered, free of charge, to those already registered under the Indian Act.

Over the last year, MCPEI assisted over 140 individuals by answering questions, providing support, and assisting in procuring their SCIS. Support as provided by phone, email, and in-person through one-on-one appointments and partnering with the Atlantic Indigenous Services Canada branch to host successful pop-up clinics.

ISERVICE PEI MOBILE POP-UP SITES

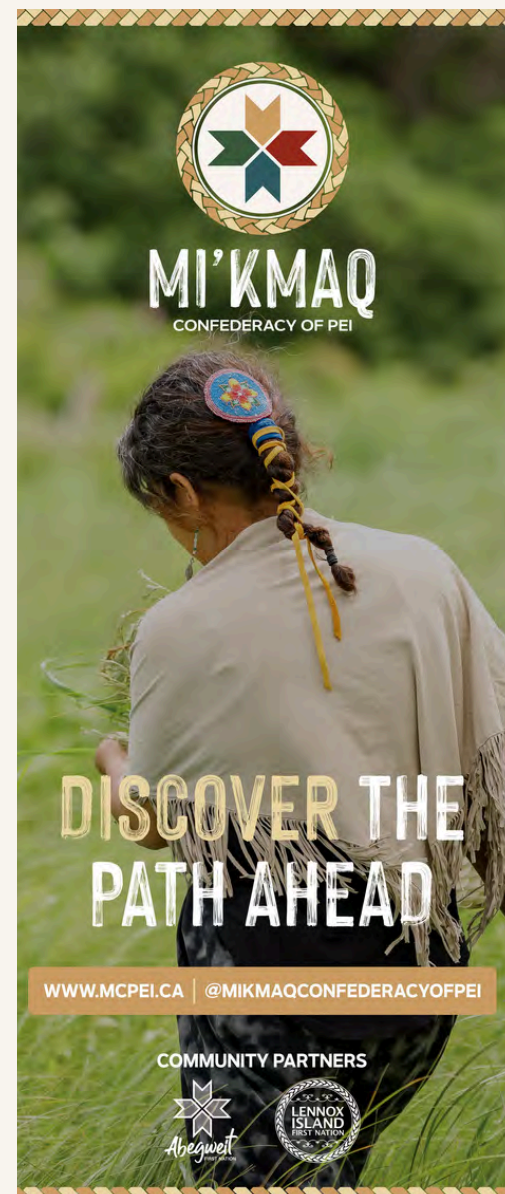
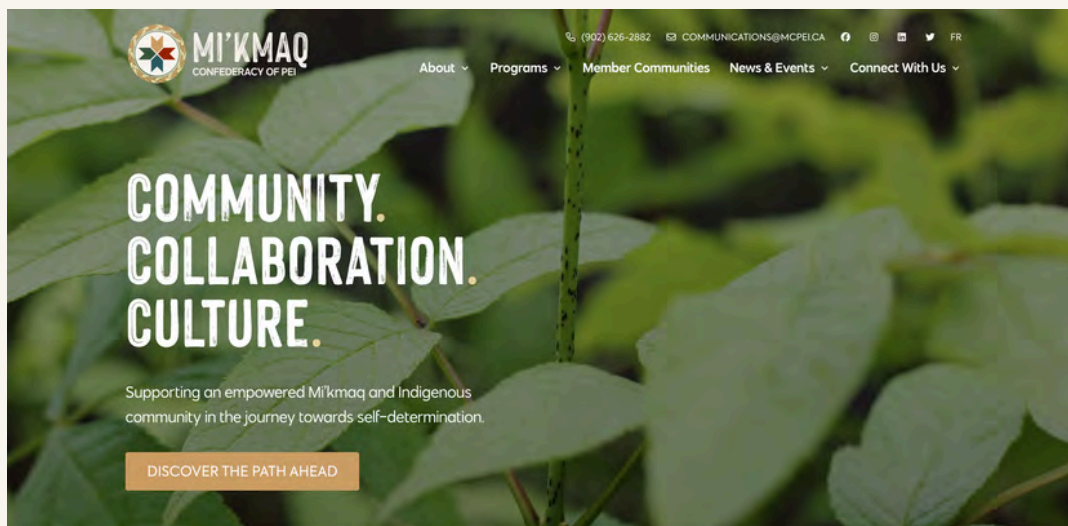
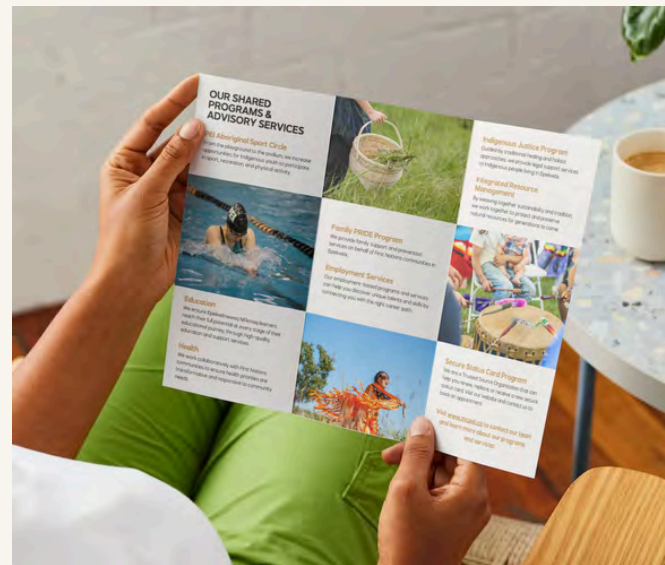
The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI in collaboration with First Nations communities, partnered with Service PEI to pilot a series of mobile access sites on and off reserve for Mi'kmaq and Indigenous clients. The goal of the program was to make essential services more accessible and welcoming for Mi'kmaq and Indigenous community members.

Over 40 essential services were completed as part of the pilot project, including health cards, drivers' licenses, birth certificates, and voluntary IDs. Overall, the program was very well received and additional needs were identified for future pop-up sites. Clients appreciated the opportunity to ask important questions in a safe and welcoming space.

Communications

Over the past year, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI) made significant progress in improving existing communications efforts while implementing new strategies to increase outreach and engagement.

Communications played an important role in raising awareness of programs and services, creating engaging content, maintaining brand consistency, and strengthening relationships with partners to enhance the organization's visibility and reputation.



SUPPORTING MEMBER FIRST NATIONS

As a Tribal Council that provides technical advice and guidance, MCPEI provided on-going communications support to member First Nations upon request. This included assisting with public relations, advertising and promotion, social media, and strategic communications to help grow outreach and engagement efforts within community.

BRAND VISIBILITY AND INCREASED AWARENESS

With the recent introduction of a new MCPEI brand and logo, significant effort was dedicated to establishing and growing a strong recognizable identity. This included the creation of new signage and print materials, updated social media identities, and the promotion of the new MCPEI website as a central hub for information.

- **Branded Signage:** Developed new branded signage at various office locations to enhance visibility and create a welcoming space for clients.
- **New Brochures & Rack Cards:** Developed new brochures and rack cards to make information more accessible to clients.
- **Website Promotion:** Increased awareness of programs and services through the new MCPEI website.
- **Social Media Growth:** Expanded social media presence to keep community members informed about events, programs and initiatives.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

A key priority was supporting community engagement initiatives throughout the year, including small community events and larger networking opportunities that brought together regional and national partners.

- **Community Event Support:** Participated in various community-led events including Mawio'mis, St. Ann's Sunday Parade, youth summer camps, community meetings, and cultural gatherings.
- **MCPEI Golf Tournament:** Successfully organized the 15th Annual MCPEI Golf Tournament. This year's tournament featured new branded signage, an event website page, and online registration form. Proceeds from the tournament contribute directly to sport, recreation, and physical activity programs for Mi'kmaq and Indigenous youth.
- **Partnership Events:** Promoted key events such as conferences, training sessions, and networking opportunities, that brought together community members and partners.
- **Video Campaign:** Produced a new video honoring survivors and victims of residential schools in observance of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

GROWTH AND IMPACT

Throughout the year, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI saw significant growth in its digital presence, with increased engagement across key platforms. These successes reflect MCPEI's continued growth and the impact of its communications strategy in building stronger connections within the community and beyond.

ANALYTICS			
WEBSITE	FACEBOOK	INSTAGRAM	LINKEDIN
15K+ Active Viewers	8,080+ Followers	2,455+ Followers	715+ Followers



Highlights & Accomplishments

Our accomplishments over the last year would not have been possible without the collaboration, support, and direction of the two First Nations in Epekwitk.

APRIL 2024



MCPEI and Lennox Island Host UPEI Climate Change Adaptation Tour



Employment Counsellors Attend Community Job Fairs



MCPEI Hosts Land Use Interview Information Sessions in First Nations Communities



Indigenous Athlete, Kennah Brant, Receives Inaugural Red Dress Leadership Awards and Attends First-Ever Indigenous Women in Sport Gathering



MCPEI Judges the
2024 PEI Heritage Fair

MAY 2024



Kennah Brant and Jase MacPherson Represent Team
Atlantic at the 2024 Aboriginal Hockey Championships
in Grand Prairie, Alberta

MCPEI Recognizes
Community Nurses for
2024 National Nurses
Week



MCPEI Supports 2024 Red Dress Walk in Honour of MMWIG



**MCPEI Recognizes 2024
Emergency Preparedness
Week**



**MCPEI Supports Lennox
Island's Health Screening
Drive Thru Clinics**



**MCPEI Partners with
Justice Avenues to Host
Free Community Legal
Clinics**

JUNE 2024



**Organizers of Atlantic
Home and Community
Care Skills Camp**



Elders and Youth Experience the Banding of Baby Eagles for Science and Research



MCPEI Attends Abegweit First Nation's Annual Mawio'mi



Darcie Augustine Becomes PEI RCMP's First Candidate in the Indigenous Pre-Cadet Training Program

MCPEI Partners with Abegweit First Nation to Host Community BBQ in Celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day

Sport Circle Partners with Volleyball PEI to Host a Clinic



**MCPEI Participates in
Canadian Coast Guard Day
2024**

JULY 2024



**Abegweit First Nation and RCMP Host Indigenous
Youth Justice Program**



**Sport Circle Hosts
Summer Sport Program**



MCPEI Supports Annual Stick Together: Lennox Island Family Fun & Hockey Fest with Special Guests Phyllis Webstad and Tyler Fuller



MCPEI Hosts Lennox Island Youth Summer Camp Activities



Sport Circle Hosts Youth Fun Run in First Nations Communities

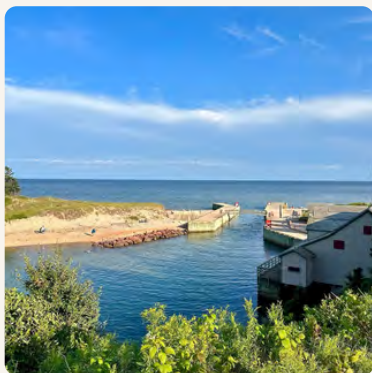


MCPEI Participates in Lennox Island's St. Ann's Sunday Parade



MCPEI Introduces the Sacred Eagle Feather to the PEI Human Rights Commission

AUGUST 2024



MCPEI Hosts Mi'kmaq Storytelling Series in Basin Head to Recognize Epekwit's Only Marine Protected Area

Summer Employment Students Enjoy their Placements



MCPEI Partners with Abegweit First Nation to Host Youth Summer Camp Activities



**MCPEI Attends
Lennox Island Annual
Mawio'mi**



**Sport Circle Partners
with RCMP PEI and
Cycling PEI to Host
“Hop On” Experience for
Youth of Abegweit First
Nation**

SEPTEMBER 2024



MCPEI Hosts 15th Annual Golf Tournament



MCPEI Partners with First Nations Communities and Access PEI to Deliver Essential Services



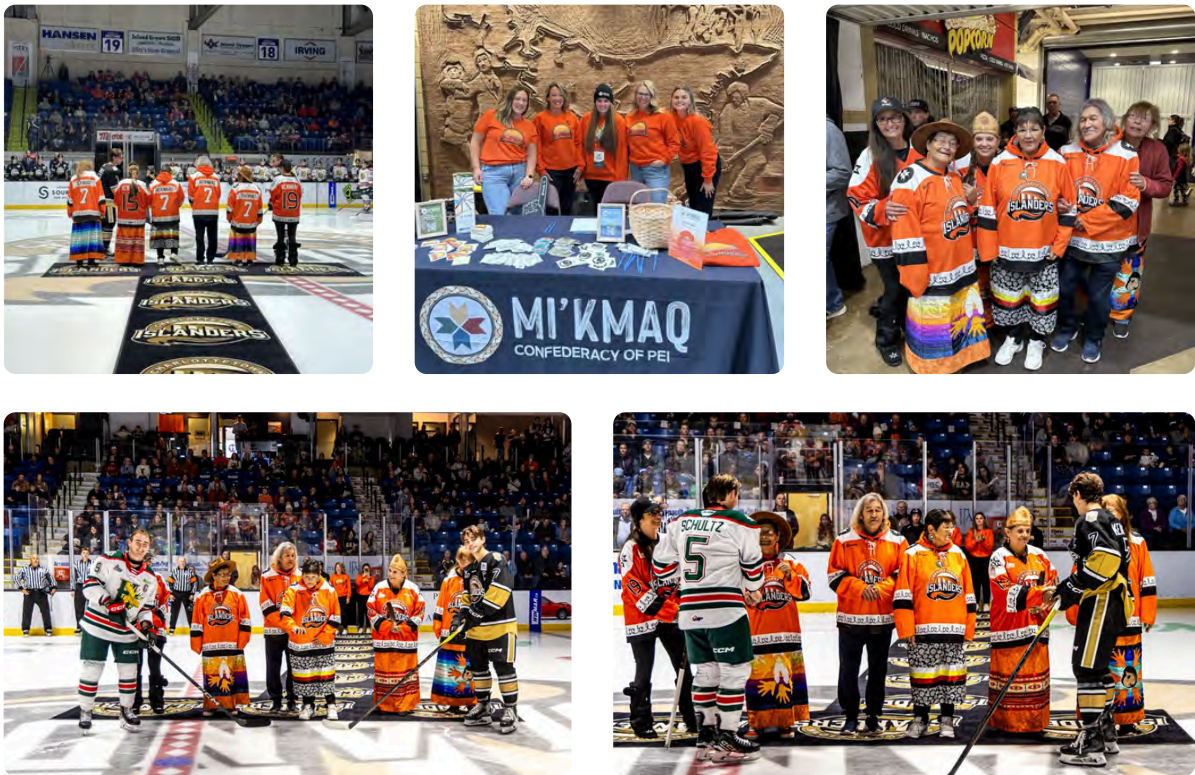
MCPEI Reveals New Video to Honour Local Residential School Survivors and Raise Awareness of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation



Sport Circle Hosts Come Try Golf Program at Strathgartney Highlands Golf Course



Indigenous Artist, Trenton Smith, Designs Special Charlottetown Islanders Truth and Reconciliation Logo



MCPEI Partners with Charlottetown Islanders to Host National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Hockey Game in Honour of Survivors

OCTOBER 2024



MCPEI Hosts Indigenous Justice Gathering

MCPEI Staff Participate in the PEI Marathon



**MCPEI Employment Services Program Receives
Canada's Premiers 2024 Council of the Federation
Literacy Award**



**MCPEI Supports First-
Ever Atlantic Indigenous
Tourism Summit Hosted
in Epekwitk**



**MCPEI Employment
Services Participant,
Faith Myers, Wins Youth
Tourism Award at the
Atlantic Indigenous
Tourism Summit**



**Lennox Island First
Nation Members
Complete Aquaculture
Training Program
Offered by Holland
College and Memorial
University**



**Home and Community
Care Staff of Lennox
Island and Abegweit
First Nations Celebrate
25 Years of Providing
Excellent Care**



**Mi'kmaq Artisan, Melissa
Peter-Paul of Abegweit
First Nation,
Collaborates with
Famous Indigenous
Brand Manitobah**



Organizing Committee for the Atlantic Home and Community Care Conference Celebrate 25th Anniversary



MCPEI Supports Abegweit First Nation's Chief's Haunted Barn

NOVEMBER 2024



First Nations Recognize Indigenous Veterans Day on November 8th



MCPEI Executive Director, Kateri Coade, Participates in the Institute of Public Administration of Canada's (IPAC) Panel Discussion



Sport Circle Hosts Indigenous Sport & Culture Gathering

MCPEI Supports Annual Indigenous Artisan Christmas Market



PEI Indigenous Athlete, Keegan MacDougall, Wins Tom Longboat Award

MCPEI Attends Lennox Island First Nation's Health and Education Career Expo



Mi'kmaq Volleyball Official, Breanne Lewis, Becomes A Part of History as PEI School Athletics Association Celebrates First All-Female Officials

DECEMBER 2024



Jonathan Jadis of Abegweit First Nation Wins MCPEI Annual Christmas Card Contest



MCPEI Supports 12 Days of Christmas

FEBRUARY 2025



MCPEI Hosts Indigenous Self Defense Workshops for Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations Members



MCPEI Hosts Secure Status Card Pop-Up Shops



Sport Circle Hosts
Aboriginal Coaching
Module Workshop for
Holland College



Sport Circle Hosts
“Come Try Curling” with
Rocky Point Youth
Group



Former NAIG athletes
pursue coaching
opportunities

MARCH 2025



Constable Mallory
Metallic, Gladue Writer
for the Indigenous
Justice Program,
receives the Cultural
Awareness Award!



MCPEI Supports Female
Empowerment Camps



Longstanding MCPEI Employees Retire After Many Years of Dedicated Service - Allan Gillis (16 Years) and Randy Angus (18 Years)



MCPEI Supports Lennox Island Band Meeting



MCPEI Employment Counsellors Attend UPEI and Tourism PEI Job Fairs

LIFN Members Receive PEI Literacy Alliance Adult Learner Awards



MCPEI Partners with First Nations Communities to Host Indigenous Knowledge Systems Workshop

Kateri Coade, Awarded the King Charles III's Coronation Medal

CONNECT WITH US



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Instagram: @MikmaqConfederacyofPEI
LinkedIn: @MikmaqConfederacyofPEI

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The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI would like to thank its community partners, Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations, and Epekwitk Assembly of Councils leaders for their on-going support, guidance, and leadership over the 2024-2025 fiscal year. MCPEI would also like to thank its primary funding parties, the Government of Canada and Province of PEI, for their support and contributions.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



FUNDING PARTIES

Canada

*Prince
Edward
Island*
CANADA