

MIAWPUKEK GOVERNMENT GOES ONCE AGAIN TO REAFFIRM MI'KMAW RIGHTS TO TERRITORY

(THIRD TIME LUCKY?, by Phil Jeddore)

Miawpukek Mi'kamaway Mawi'omi, our first nation government, is once again going back to the Federal and Provincial governments in an well planed and researched attempt at convincing them to return the territory they stole from us.

This will be the third time we will have went to them with this request. Twice before the two governments have refused to accept responsibility for the theft of Mi'kmaw lands.

Shayne McDonald, Our Nation's lawyer and Chief Land Rights Negotiator along with our Nation's Land Rights Negotiation Committee met all last week to put together a final proposal to settle the Newfoundland government's land claims on our territory.

The Federal and Provincial governments have placed their laws upon our territory and have the firepower to force us to obey them. As a result, they are not in any hurry to listen to our cries for justice.

Word around town is that we will be asking the two governments to accept our rights to a smaller area than what we've previously documented as Mi'kmaw Territory. There were two reasons for this. The last time we did this we included territory claimed by the Federation of Newfoundland Indians in a joint proposal. The other reason was to present the case based on both historic and contemporary land use. The area adequately reflects historic and contemporary land use territory of the Miawpukek Mi'kmaq. The claims assertion is not to be confused with what will be the final agreement and represents a starting point for negotiations. The Mi'kmaq heads of family will be consulted and their concurrence sought before any agreement is reached. Our community will soon be called upon to give their support to this final effort to get recognition of our rights to our land (i.e. our right of Netukulimk) and our own self-government. People needing more information should contact any one of their Government Members. If there is no community support, then we can say goodbye to all our rights. Because if we lose this battle then it will only be a matter of time before everything is taken away from us.

Miawpukek Mi'kamaway Mawi'omi		Election Results June 4, 1996		
		Votes	%	Ranking
For Saqamaw				
Drew, Ken		50	12.9%	2
Joe, Misel	*Elected*	337	87.1%	1
		387		
For Councilor				
Benoit, Robert		70	18.1%	12
Hinks, Damien		93	24.0%	10
Hinks, Laverna		55	14.2%	14
Hinks, Ross		66	17.1%	13
Hoskins, Gary		125	32.3%	8
Jeddore, Phil		114	29.5%	9
Jeddore, Rembert	*Elected*	286	73.9%	2
Joe, Gerard	*Elected*	230	59.4%	5
Joe, Mardina	*Elected*	238	61.5%	4
John, Ivan		72	18.6%	11
John, Marilyn		141	36.4%	7
Kelly, Brian	*Elected*	193	49.9%	6
McDonald, Shayne	*Elected*	316	81.7%	1
Stride, Mary	*Elected*	263	68.0%	3
Number of votes cast		389	Number of eligible voters 486 % of voters who voted 80.0%	

AROUND TOWN...



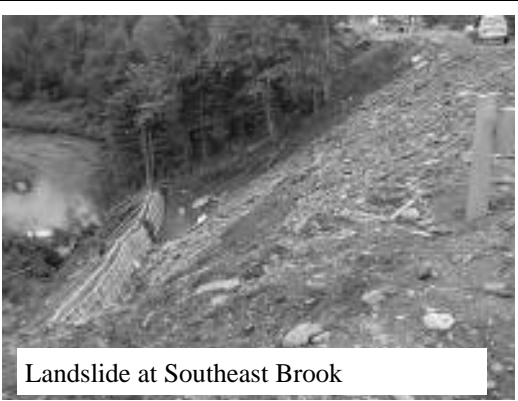
Saqamaw Misel speaks to his Nation at the announcement that a new road will be built and paved into the village.



Premier Tobin came for a visit. Here he adds a bead to Singing Wolf's necklace.



Singing Wolf came for a visit, and ended his Journey of Hope across Turtle Island.



Landslide at Southeast Brook



St. Ann's Day - 1996



Opening ceremonies at first day of school for students and staff of Se-ta'newe Kegnamokwom.

MISSION STATEMENT

OUR MISSION IS TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE CULTURAL, HEALTH, ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF THE OUR PEOPLE, INCLUDING OUR LANGUAGE, HISTORY AND SPIRITUALITY.

MY OPINION...

WITHOUT PREJUDICE, Two words that very few of us know the meaning of. But using them can mean the difference between becoming dirty Mi'kmaw or proud Mi'kmaw.

To help you figure that out, you must remember two things. We remember the names we used to be called and jealous people still call us those names today.

But today Miawpukek is one of the most prosperous communities in Taqamkuk. Most of us know our history and are proud of it.

Most of us know that our status as "Registered Indians"

is the only reason why we are getting the good things we get.

There are still a lot of people out there who want to take all of this away from us. We became "Registered Indians", be-

cause that was the only way to get the governments to recognize that we are Mi'kmaw and have certain rights.

Today many of us are helping the governments take away our rights and we don't even know it.

Do you know how we are doing this?

One of the ways we are doing this is by accepting the white government's rules over our hunting, fishing and land rights. We are doing this by letting them have the power to make us buy licenses to do the things that are our aboriginal right as a nation to do.

How can you help put a stop to this? Well, the next time you are forced to apply for a license, put these two words in front of your signature: "Without Prejudice"

Why should we do it?

We should do it because governments across Canada are already using our acceptance of their laws against us. Whenever aboriginal groups begin land rights negotiations, the government of the day throw these comments in our face: "You have no rights. You gave them up by accepting our rules

over you." Or "You didn't protest then, so why are you protesting now" or something similar.

So, if we put those two little words near our signature whenever we sign some application for land, licenses or whatever, you are saying to the governments, " You

may force me to apply through your system, but I am still not giving up my rights to my land or my rights as a Mi'kmaq". Then when we are again at the negotiating table, we can truly say we are a nation as we have always been and any foreign government must negotiate with us nation to nation.

Sound simplistic? That was intentional, so for more information check with one of your government members or our government lawyer.(By Phil Jeddore)

"You have no rights. You gave them up by accepting our rules over you."

Logo

We need a logo to go at the top of our front page. If you think you have a good idea for such a logo. Let us know, and we will negotiate...

THANK YOU...

MI'KMAQ SINGERS AND DRUMMERS!

FOR CONTINUING WITH YOUR SINGING AND DRUMMING AT IMPORTANT EVENTS.

YOUR WORK WILL ENSURE THAT WE KEEP OUR RIGHTS A LITTLE BIT LONGER! WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

UCS Sighted!!!

Unidentified Cutting Surveyors were seen cutting a survey line on the access road! This makes more real the fact that our road will be constructed and paved by next September. A real issue now will be how many of the construction jobs will go to Mi'kmaq.

TUNA CAUGHT IN CAGE!

A very large tuna, some \$10,000 worth according to some sources got in one of the fish cages out to Gaultois passage. It was impossible to remove it from the net, since it came up through a hole in the bottom. The decision was made to "harvest" it and after a small bit of difficulty this was done.

Luck was with the owners of the cage, however, and no fish were lost. The tuna was then taken in to the SCB plant at St. Alban's, where it "disappeared!". What could have been turned into a windfall profit, which could have been used to pay for some necessary expenses, apparently got shared up between some lucky individuals. Talk about eating away your profits!

ATTENTION NET SURFERS!

Why not check out the HOMEPAGE of MIAWPUKEK FIRST NATION at <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/2071!!>

C O N T A C T U S . . .

By Phone 709 882 2470 By Fax 709 882 2836

By mail P. O. Box ?, Miawpukek, Taqamkuk, A0H 1J0

By e-mail c/o pjeddore @cancom.net

In person When you are going south on route 360: After you cross the bridge over the Conne River, take the first dirt road going west.

News/for sale/opinions/comments

We need NEWS

We need FOR SALE ITEMS

We need ANNOUNCEMENTS.

We need YOUR OPINIONS.

We need YOUR QUESTIONS.

We need YOUR COMMENTS.

We need YOUR SUPPORT.

Send now!!(Next issue will be out on Friday, Sept. 20)

WHY...

ARE SOME OF THE FIRE HYDRANTS SO LOW TO THE GROUND?!

(SEND IN YOUR *WHY!* TO WHY OF THE WEEK NOW!

25 CENTS!?!?!...You ask? We had hoped that Miawpukek News would be a free publication, but when we considered the expense, paper and so on and the fact that we needed to raise some funds for Miawpukek Communications: ...Well, we hope you agree 25 cents is not all that bad.

It is published for two reasons: To bring news and information to the Mi'kmaw of Miawpukek and the whole of Taqamkuk. To provide a written forum for Mi'kmaw to express their views and concerns. It is published every Friday with the assistance of the Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi, but is completely independent of that organization regarding the material printed inside. Opinions printed are not necessarily the views of Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi or of those working on this paper. Articles of interest relevant to the cause of the Mi'kmaw are welcomed and solicited. People responsible for this issue of Miawpukek News are: Shayne McDonald and Philip Jeddore.