



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by the Office of the Hon. PJ Prosper
Senator for Nova Scotia/Mi'kma'ki

COVER ART: "GUIDING LIGHT" SKYLA, AGE 14, MEMBERTOU FIRST NATION

ANNUAL REPORT: 2025
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Message from the Senator

September 30, 2025

From the moment I was sworn into the Senate, I knew that it was important for me to stay connected and accountable to the people of Mi'kma'ki. A constant fear is to walk into a community in Nova Scotia and to have everyone ask, "Who is that?" That is why I pledged to issue annual reports, beginning with the foundational report released on Treaty Day (October 1), 2024 - *Reconcili-ACTION*.

We shared *Reconcili-ACTION* with every federal parliamentarian, then shared it again after the election, to ensure that any new MPs and Senators would also get a chance to read it. It's been gratifying to see how much awareness the report has raised, and to find out that it is being used in multiple ways, including: as a reference guide for federal parliamentarians; as a briefing document by the Nova Scotia Department of L'nu Affairs; and as required reading in four different university courses.

The year since the report's release has been a busy one.

I have worked with my office to identify 30 short, medium and long-term priorities that I can work on to advance the priorities that were raised to me during the Mi'kma'ki tour. We have diligently been working on advancing those at every opportunity. I have also been using my platform as a Senator to ensure that my speeches, statements, questions and interventions at committee stay true to the principles and teachings I live by as a Mi'kmaw man and lawyer. To me, the Mi'kmaw teaching of *etuaptmumk*, or "two-eyed seeing" is my everyday reality - I live and work straddling the Indigenous and non-Indigenous world.

This year has also led to me focusing on other priorities beyond those related to *Reconcili-ACTION*. I've found that my office received several requests from Nova Scotians (both Mi'kmaq and non-Indigenous) to help with a range of issues from CRA concerns, to immigration requests, to support for elders.

Some fun and equally fulfilling initiatives that we talk about in this report include the ongoing efforts to ensure that my website is a useful tool to others and helps to answer the question, "What does a Senator do?" You'll read about the King Charles III Coronation Medals, which were an opportunity to recognize outstanding individuals throughout the country, and about our new annual Art Contest, which enabled us to find the beautiful piece of art that you see on this report's cover by 14-year old Skyla from Membertou.



Message from the Senator

We also talk about the work I do in the Senate. It's been an interesting year with some legislation that I've had to push back on because of the potential implications for Indigenous rights. (One Senator even referred to me as a "troublemaker".) Frustratingly, the 44th Parliament was shortened due to the resignation of former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; Prorogation, the Liberal leadership race, and the general election, all had an impact on how much I could continue to advance the different priorities I was working on.

As I write this, the 45th Parliament is getting ready to go into full swing, and already we have big pieces of legislation and lots of committee work to get through. It should prove to be another interesting and action-packed year.

On May 27, 2025, I had the privilege of sitting in the Senate Chamber to hear the Speech from the Throne delivered by His Majesty, King Charles III. His words, urging Canadians to find a path "toward truth and reconciliation, in both word and deed" have stuck with me, and I have found myself quoting him multiple times since then.

When considering when to launch subsequent reports, I decided on September 30 of every year as it is federally designated as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. As so much of the report's focus is on the need to achieve reconciliation through government action, it seemed fitting.

It is my hope that these reports, coupled with the news coverage of reconciliation initiatives every year on this day, will continue to push Government to go beyond words and to take real, concrete, measurable action.

Wela'lioq/thank you/merci,

PJ Prosper,
Senator for Nova Scotia/Mi'kma'ki

Executive Summary

In 2024, Senator PJ Prosper embarked on a tour of the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq, known as Mi'kma'ki. This resulted in a 241-page report entitled, **Reconcili-ACTION**. The report includes overviews of each region in Mi'kma'ki and includes tables listing the priorities of Mi'kmaw communities, organizations and tribal councils from each of the seven districts, with the exception of Prince Edward Island/Epekwitk (based on discussions with the organizations there).

Wide Distribution

Copies of the report were shared with all Parliamentarians in the 44th and 45th Parliaments. It was also shared widely throughout Mi'kma'ki and is available to the public via the Senator's website.

Usage and References

Not only does Sen. Prosper use the report to guide the work of his office throughout the year, but it is also being used as required reading in four different Mi'kmaw Studies courses throughout the Atlantic and as a briefing document for the Nova Scotia Department of L'nu Affairs.

Guiding the Work

This report summarizes the short, medium, and long-term priorities set by Senator Prosper in response to the issues and priorities identified by tour participants. It also shows the progress made to date and includes updated tables from participants.

Beyond Reconcili-ACTION

In the interest of transparency and accountability, this report also includes updates on: Senate business; constituency work; the Senator's website; research projects; his prebudget submission; his priorities for the first 100 sitting days of Parliament; the inaugural Art Contest; and the King Charles III Coronation medals.

While continuing to deepen my own understanding, it is my great hope that in each of your communities, and collectively as a country, a path is found toward truth and reconciliation, in both word and deed. -His Majesty, King Charles III

Introduction

In 2024, Sen. Prosper went on a listening tour throughout Mi'kma'ki and engaged with leaders, grassroots members, and organizations to identify key priorities for Mi'kmaq or L'nu. He highlighted 7 main priority categories in his report, "Reconcili-ACTION".

"Reconcili-ACTION" argued that enough time has been spent studying the issues facing Canada's Indigenous peoples, and that an emphasis must be placed on actively addressing the concerns and priorities raised.

Over the course of 49 meetings and conferences held over seven months, Sen. Prosper and his team engaged 1,701 people. They travelled a total of 24,944 km, generated 1,321 pages of notes and spent 184 hours in meetings to produce a 241-page report that outlined the concerns identified by participants from all seven districts of Mi'kmaw Nation.

The concerns were organized into seven categories and then ranked by frequency of mention:

1. Governance
2. Health and Social Issues
3. Economic Development, Lands and Resources
4. Justice
5. Infrastructure
6. Citizenship
7. Language, Culture and History

Since its release on Treaty Day (October 1), 2024, Reconcili-ACTION has become a foundational document in Sen. Prosper's office; the actions he undertakes, the interventions he makes, and the initiatives he champions are all reflective of the priorities outlined during his tour. It was shared with all federal parliamentarians and their offices several times, leading to strong awareness of the issues raised within it amongst MPs, Senators and Ministers. The report has also guided several external stakeholders: The Office of L'nu Affairs in Nova Scotia has confirmed that the report is used as a briefing document for ministers and MLAs within the province, while professors and associate professors in four different universities use it in their course materials - St. Francis Xavier, Cape Breton University, St. Mary's University and Dalhousie.

Setting Priorities

With 745 issues and priorities brought forward by 34 different communities and organizations representing all communities throughout Mi'kma'ki (with the exception of PEI organizations and communities, which chose to not have their data included), it was essential that Sen. Prosper focus his and his office's energy on short, medium and long-term priorities.

When identifying which priorities the Senator would focus on, several factors were considered, including (but not limited to): Is it within federal jurisdiction? How much overlap was there in the issue or priority area amongst communities? Is there an element of time sensitivity with the issue? Is the action sought legislative, policy-based, or funding-based in nature?

Once these factors were used to identify a list of priority focus areas for the Senator, issues were organized into short, medium and long-term priorities with consideration for time and resource limitations, recognizing the Senator's need to also attend Senate committees, consider government legislation, and attend Senate sittings.

As Sen. Prosper remains committed to transparency and accountability given that his office is funded with federal tax dollars, he has committed to reporting annually on the progress made on these priorities, as well as on his other undertakings. At all times, Sen. Prosper strives to represent Mi'kmaq, Nova Scotians and other L'nu people well through his actions and interventions.

His interventions, expenses, voting record and other information can be found at www.pjprosper.ca, where those interested can also sign up for emailed updates via his newsletter.

(Below) A photo of the mural in Tru by Hilton Yarmouth, owned by Wasoqopa'q First Nation.



Senator Prosper focused on short, medium and long-term goals in an effort to move files forward and maximize efficacy.

Measuring Progress

Given the complexities of many of the issues brought forward during his tour, Senator Prosper has opted to break his plan of action into short, medium and long-term priorities.

Short-term priorities are defined as those that could reasonably be achieved within one year or less. While that definition would have short-term priorities addressed by October 1, 2025, given the prolonged prorogation of Parliament, Liberal leadership change, and consequential general election, the goal to complete work on these priorities has exceptionally been extended to October 1, 2026. Completed items will be replaced with new priorities, while incomplete items will move to the medium-term priorities list after the 2026 deadline.

Medium-term priorities are defined as those that could be completed within 1.5-3 years. Sen. Prosper has set the goal of 2029, again adding a year due to account for the prorogation of Parliament and general election. This list will be replenished with incomplete short-term priority items or new issues as they arise.

Long-term priorities are defined as those that are considered to reasonably take longer than three years to address. Arguably, this is a concrete benefit of the unelected Chamber; Senators are not affected by the electoral cycle and can operate on the premise that - barring illness or other circumstances beyond their control - they can plan their work until the mandatory retirement age of 75.

Items where the action and desired outcome was achieved are marked "Complete", while items started, but requiring further action to meet that goal are marked "Ongoing". Where the Parliamentary schedule or outside circumstances have limited the Senator's ability to action priority items, they are either marked "Not Started" or "Incomplete" with an explanatory note.

In several cases, completion of actions related to short-term priorities have created new priority action items under medium and long-term goals.

The Priorities

SHORT, MEDIUM & LONG-TERM AREAS OF FOCUS

Short-Term Priorities

Goal: Address by October 1, 2026

Below is a summary of the priorities identified and the activities, projects, intervention or actions taken to address them, as well as the outcome. Items with an asterisk (*) followed by a dash and number(s) denote that more information will follow on that page of the report.

C = Completed; O = Ongoing; N = Not Started; and I = Incomplete

Priority	Activity / Project	Data / Outcome	
RCMP/By-law enforcement*-22-24	Hold a roundtable to help improve relations between communities and RCMP and make progress on enforceability of by-laws	- Roundtable hosted at Nationhood in Membertou, NS - Instead of hosting between RCMP and communities, the focus was on sharing information from other communities in Canada on this issue	C
DFO - Work on pushing for de-escalation training	Introduce concept to Minister	Had meetings with the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary in the 44th Parliament; included recommendation in the letter to the DFO Minister after the general election	O
DFO - work on ensuring the third-party review is initiated by the Department as promised*-148-149	Push at the political levels with Ministers of CIR and DFO to keep their commitment	- Had meetings with the PS of DFO and Minister of CIR pre-prorogation - Had meeting with Minister of CIR post-election - Included in 100 Days Priority list	O

Short-Term Priorities

Goal: Address by October 1, 2026

Priority	Activity / Project	Data / Outcome	
Get funding restored for MLSN bail program	Make appeal to Minister of Justice	• Raised issue during QP prior to prorogation • Included in letter to Ministers post-election	O
Help facilitate Kelly's Mountain name change	Work with UNSM on federal name change procedure	• Had meeting with UNSM lead to advise on procedure • Was advised that this would be part of a packet of requested name changes submitted by KMKNO • New signage placed at start of 2025 season (see UNSM updated table for details)	C
Help establish communications, technological and funding needs for the Grand Council*-30	Work in collaboration with the Regional Chief's office to partner with the Fulcher Foundation and others in order to deliver on this priority	• With Regional Chief Paul's office, hosted a gathering in Millbrook, NS with Grand Council and Chiefs from throughout Mi'kma'ki • Brokered a partnership with Telus to provide phones and subsidized plans to Grand Council members • Secured 5-year funding from the Fulcher Foundation for a strategic plan aimed at establishing modernized internal protocols and dedicated administrative support	C

Short-Term Priorities

Goal: Address by October 1, 2026

Priority	Activity / Project	Data / Outcome	
MKK - Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Child and Family sectoral agreement	Form advisory committee and help advance initiative	Due to changes in leadership at KMKNO and stalled negotiation between parties, this has not been actioned	N
Ta'n Etli-tpi'tmk*-105	Help advocate of on-reserve disability support payment distribution	- Met with Minister of CIR pre-prorogation - Met with Minister of CIR post-election - Included in the 100 Days Priorities - Addressed issue during Question Period - Disability payments for 12 of 13 communities now flowing through TEA	C
Create more economic opportunities for Mi'kmaw businesses*-25-27	Push for increased awareness and usage of international tools such as the Indigenous Peoples' Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement (IPETCA) available to Indigenous businesses in the wake of shifting geo-political realities	- Published two op-eds on the issue - Presented at the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association's annual Prosperity Forum in 2025 - Presented Indigenous businesses with research on a variety of international instruments available to supporting them - Met with domestic and foreign government officials to better foster Indigenous B2B relations internationally	C

Short-Term Priorities

Goal: Address by October 1, 2026

Priority	Activity / Project	Data / Outcome
Supporting Millbrook's fisheries enforcement officers	Interface with DFO to help facilitate the asset transfer of a vessel from DFO Truro to Millbrook	- Spoke with regional DFO office - Sent correspondence to Ottawa office and DFO Minister's office - Addressed during Question Period - Received update that sign-off has occurred at all required stages; awaiting confirmation of asset transfer
Eastern Door	Interface with ISC regarding delayed processing of Jordan's Principle applications so that children can go through assessment and programs offered at Eastern Door	Submitted official request to office of ISC Minister to get a status update on JP applications of several families
Support Claims Research Units that are facing 60-80% funding cuts	Work with organizations to lobby for increased funding	- Helped to organize a letter-writing campaign to highlight the importance of specific claims research - Resulted in a one-time top up for this year of over \$2M to eligible CRUs

Medium-Term Priorities

Goal: Address by October 1, 2029

Below is a summary of the priorities identified and the activities, projects, intervention or actions taken to address them, as well as the outcome. Items with an asterisk (*) followed by a dash and number(s) denote that more information will follow on that page of the report.

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Priority	Activity / Project	Data / Outcome
Additions to Reserve	Propose a Senate study focusing on the calls from First Nations to speed up the process and raise the cap on tribunal awards for specific claims	While this study was on the potential agenda in the 44th Parliament, Sen. Prosper needed to re-introduce it in the 45th Parliament for consideration by the committee
RCMP - by-law enforcement	Work on advancing policing legislation to ensure community by-law enforcement	- Supporting the efforts of Sen. Mary Jane McCallum to address legislative gaps preventing the enforcement of by-laws on-reserve and prosecution of offenders (Bills S-223 & S-224) - Exploring alternative legislative options like including in C-2
Citizenship	Work to eliminate the second-generation cut-off through legislative changes	Working with partners, communities and organizations on proposed amendments to S-2, <i>An Act to amend the Indian Act (new registration entitlements)</i>

Medium-Term Priorities

Goal: Address by October 1, 2029

Priority	Activity / Project	Data / Outcome	
Addiction Treatment Centre	Seek funding support for an additional culturally-appropriate treatment centre in Nova Scotia	Have begun research to support an economic argument about the long-term benefits and overall success of culturally-appropriate treatment models	O
Hidden homelessness	Work on initiating a study to get the true homeless numbers in Mi'kma'ki	Looking at options such as partnering with other organizations to do this research; given the limited resources of a Senate office, this work has not yet started	N
Ta'n Etli-tpi'tmk*-105	Support in their effort to finalize a sectoral self-government agreement on social welfare	- Included in the 100 Days of Parliament ask - Spoke with CIR Minister directly on this issue - Included in the Pre-Budget Submission - Participated in a press conference in Eskasoni, calling for the restart of negotiations and their speedy conclusion - Please see TEA's updated table for more information	O

Medium-Term Priorities

Goal: Address by October 1, 2029

Priority	Activity / Project	Data / Outcome
Mi'kmaw Legal Services Network	Advocate for core funding	- Produced preliminary research on the true cost of crime - Working with CMM and SFX to explore leveraging the MOU between those organizations to expand on research done to date
Mi'kmaw Fisheries	Exploring ways to diffuse ongoing tensions with DFO regarding jurisdiction and proper application of the <i>Marshall</i> decision	- Preliminary conversations with DFO's Parliamentary Secretary as well as Mi'kmaw communities and organizations - Included in letter to DFO Minister
Millbrook Fisheries Enforcement Officers	Support their push to be designated peace officers under the DFO Act	Sent letter to DFO Minister; seeking a meeting
Wabanaki Two-Spirit Alliance Youth Council	Support their goal of obtaining land for gatherings and cultural activities	Sen. Prosper has offered the youth a parcel out of his private holdings; the, agreements will be drafted by pro bono lawyers to finalize details of the land transfer

Medium-Term Priorities

Goal: Address by October 1, 2029

Priority	Activity / Project	Data / Outcome
Repatriation of Cultural Heritage and Human Remains*-29	Re-table and potential rewrite the previous PMB introduced by former MP Bill Casey (Cumberland-Colchester) in 2018	• Have had preliminary conversations with individuals and organizations leading this work regionally and nationally to understand current state of the issue and advancements since the original bill's tabling • Participated in the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) online forum • Will be hosting the CMA Hill Day reception in Dec. • Had a meeting with Library and Archives Canada (LAC) to discuss potential expansion to digital repatriation • Raised this, among other issues, at the AFN AGA in Winnipeg this Sep.
Indigenous Procurement	Working with government and stakeholders to ensure that the policy results in actual increased contracting opportunities for verified Indigenous businesses	• Have had some meetings on this issue with Indigenous organizations and businesses • Worked with the Clerk of the Senate to erase barriers to Indigenous caterers to work in Senate spaces • Advocating for more Indigenous procurement for Senate office supplies

Long-Term Priorities

Issues taking over three years to address

Below is a summary of the priorities identified and the activities, projects, intervention or actions taken to address them, as well as the outcome. Items with an asterisk (*) followed by a dash and number(s) denote that more information will follow on that page of the report.

C = Completed; O = Ongoing; N = Not Started; and I = Incomplete

Priority	Activity / Project	Data / Outcome	
Rights recognition and governance*-30	Looking at revitalization of the historic government and its interplay with elected Chiefs and Council	- Working with Grand Council on revitalization project with 5-year strategic plan - APC leading conversation between Grand Council and Chiefs	O
Citizenship	Mi'kmaw Citizenship Code	Currently working on legislative changes within the <i>Indian Act</i> first (within S-2), before approaching leadership on advancing a citizenship code; it should be noted that KMKNO has begun this work	O
Mental Wellness and Suicide	Work on improving access to faster diagnoses and prevention programs throughout Mi'kma'ki	- Working with former Sen. Dan Christmas and Dr. Lori Cox of Eastern Door to establish a similar centre in Nova Scotia dedicated to diagnosing and supporting children with neurodiversity - Have begun research into economic argument supporting investment in prevention	O

Long-Term Priorities

Issues taking over three years to address

Priority	Activity / Project	Data / Outcome
Language Revitalization and preservation	Preserving Elder traditional knowledge and understanding more of the context behind the Mi'kmaw language	- Developing a public app that will capture Grand Council knowledge, include an interactive timeline of Mi'kmaw history, and provide easy access to all known Mi'kmaw-related research - Adding language component to website in collaboration with Bernie Francis
Building a Housing Continuum	Need to ensure that housing dollars support a variety of housing types including transition and supportive housing	- Included in the letter to Housing Minister regarding the general mandate - Supported Indigenous housing solutions in the pre-budget submission and 100 Days of Parliament priority list
Non-Insured Health Benefits Reform	Working with organizations, communities and others to identify changes needed to improve the NIHB program	- Included in the letter to ISC Minister regarding the general mandate - Suggested a health equity study at APPA
Jordan's Principle Reform	Working with organizations, communities and others to identify changes needed to improve JP	- Included in the letter to ISC Minister regarding the general mandate - Suggested a health equity study at APPA

The Follow-up

HIGHLIGHTING SOME OF THE WORK
DONE TO ACTION PRIORITY ITEMS

By-Law enforcement roundtable

Executive Summary

Nationhood, 2025

During the Mi'kma'ki listening tour that the Senator engaged in during 2024, every community raised the issue of by-law enforcement. In response to what was an obvious priority, the Senator engaged with the office of the Minister of Public Safety and Public Safety officials. He was also pointed toward two pilot projects in Saskatchewan and Manitoba that were leading the way on by-law enforcement. As a result of those discussions, he approached KMKNO to bring what he learned back to NS community leaders and help foster a discussion on a path forward.

Key Takeaways

- There are pilot projects in other First Nation communities that can be looked at when considering options moving forward in Nova Scotia.
- Chiefs wanted the information to be able to share with community members and conduct their own consultations on the path forward.
- Participants suggested a focused, multi-level, multi-disciplinary group to focus on potential solutions to be presented next year.



Presentations

Following meetings with Public Safety officials, the Senator learned of the strides that the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) have made in creating safer, healthier communities. These organizations have worked on behalf of their 74 and 26 First Nations, respectively, and successfully championed provincial legislative changes required to help advance the issue of by-law enforcement and prosecution. As such, representatives from FSIN and MKO were invited to present to participants on their work, their success and their ongoing challenges, in the hopes that highlighting best practices and successful examples would bring important context to how Nova Scotia communities can see real progress on this important issue.

Michael Anderson, Policing and Public Safety Advisor, MKO - See his presentation and handout [here](#).

Jason Stonechild, Executive Director, Justice (FSIN) - See his presentation [here](#).

Summary of Q&A Period

During the Q&A period, several interventions were made by participants including:

- Q: Could legislation be passed at the provincial level that would enable ability to shut down illicit cannabis shops
 - A: Would need to be proceeded with by KMKNO at the negotiation table
- Q: Where do fines go? Do they come back to the community?
 - A: 100% if paid in First Nation; 75% if paid at courthouse
- Q: Why can't we transition fully to Mi'kmaw laws as opposed to having to use colonial mechanisms like by-laws to keep our communities safe?
 - A: CTA 50 is a legal imperative and UNDRIP can help guide us to that outcome; the system of federal law development is a very complicated one and takes a lot of time

The Discussion

Sen. Prosper raised 3 questions to help stimulate a discussion on the path forward for NS.

1. Given that it's been years of pursuing this issue with relatively little progress, I can understand the frustration of everyone in this room. I know from the tour that some communities have some differing visions on how to approach this, but, in the end, everyone wants the same thing: safer communities and for our laws to be respected. However, we can only reach the top of a mountain by climbing one step at a time. **If we agree that we need to pursue this in an orderly manner, what are the immediate next steps that leadership sees us taking? How can we mark success and forward momentum in the next year? The next 3 years? The next 5 years?**

2. One of the cornerstones of the work that MKO and FSIN have done over the past few years has been extensive research coupled with strong data. Just recently, MKO applied for last minute research dollars and received it to help continue adding to this research. In government, policy proposals must be evidence-backed in order to pass the rigorous system of checks and balances imposed by the bureaucracy. **What research gaps do we have in Nova Scotia that are keeping us from moving forward? Who should do this research and how can it be funded? Could we, for example, use the partnership between CMM and SFX on Mi'kmaq-specific research to help address these gaps?**

3. Staying with the successful models of MKO and FSIN, we learned that extensive coordination of lobbying efforts were required, wherein the organizations (representing 26 and 74 nations respectively) worked with provincial and federal partners to hone and deliver the proposed programs. Without this effort, they would not have been able to receive the legislative changes required at the provincial level, that cleared the path for by-law enforcement and the ticketing regime. **Is the Tripartite table on Justice still the most effective mechanism to lead this work?**

Discussion Points

Throughout the guided discussions, several comments were made and are captured here:

On Tribal Police Force:

- Need a Tribal Police Force as RCMP training and policies are incompatible with Indigenous peoples
 - Would save money at the provincial level if we use our own police and courts
- Tribal Police in Canada have never shot anyone during wellness checks.

On the role of Tripartite:

- Research through Tripartite has been important - there is a lot it can do but it is hampered by high turnover in the federal and provincial Justice departments.
- Tripartite has been great for research but has challenges i.e. the province resisting language around the Marshall review, limited resources, etc.; There are ways to improve it in order to better respond to priorities.
- Tripartite has a role but need boots on the ground trying to operationalize research; need a pilot like Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

On logistics/potential next steps:

- How do we pay for all of this? We are moving away from our traditions and way of life; Grand Council needs to be recognized more and incorporated into our rules and regulations. We're a separate nation and shouldn't be having this discussion without representation from other districts.
- How do we hold government accountable to ensure implementation?
- Need a multi-faceted approach where experts on law and operations are able to present options on potential legislative changes and practical changes required to move forward.
- Need a multi-disciplinary, multi-level approach that brings in Grand Council concerns, leadership, community voices, legal professionals, police officers, etc. that can do the work to create a proposed path forward/present options at next year's Nationhood/similar forum
 - Should also be a multi-level group with representatives from federal and provincial departments, RCMP, and so forth.
- Chiefs and council should be leading the consultations within their communities.

On general feelings of frustration:

- This is a human rights issue - this is similar to the Union of BC Indian Chiefs' complaint against the RCMP and we need the power to enforce
- We are still spinning wheels after RCAP, TRC, etc.; Premier Houston called us "special interest groups" and makes me not want to work with them as a sovereign nation

“Buy Indigenous” is “Buy Canada”

HOW CANADA CAN DIVERSIFY TRADE, CREATE NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT INDIGENOUS BUSINESS BY FULLY IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS LIKE THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ECONOMIC TRADE COOPERATION ARRANGEMENT (IPETCA)



CANADA ENDORSED THE ARRANGEMENT IN 2021

On December 10, 2021, Canada became one of four “Participating Economies” to endorse IPETCA alongside New Zealand, Australia and Chinese Taipei. Currently, the US is an observer.

The IPETCA Partnership Council met for the first time in San Francisco in 2023. Global Affairs Canada is the Departmental lead for the Government of Canada.

CURRENT CANADA-US TRADE RELATIONSHIP



62.2%

= Source of
Total Imports

+



75.9%

= Destination for
Total Exports

*Based on Statistics Canada information from 2024

In the face of uncertainty brought about by looming tariffs and a potential trade dispute with the US, it is important to insulate all Canadian businesses from massive deficits, inflated costs of business and lost revenue.

MOST RECENT DOMESTIC SCAN OF MAORI TRADE GENERATED THROUGH IPETCA



\$29.6B

NZD

Imports

+



\$34.9B

NZD

Exports

*Based on information provided by Traci Houpapa, Indigenous Co-Chair for IPETCA; represents business done with Participating Economies and IPETCA observers

IPETCA advances cooperation activities through the IPETCA Partnership Council. The Council consists of Indigenous representatives from the Participating Economies. Currently, the Canadian Council representatives lack a Metis and Inuk representative. Total representation of Canada's Indigenous people is important as IPETCA, at its core, is an Indigenous-led, government supported arrangement.

IPETCA represents an opportunity to insulate Indigenous businesses from the uncertainty of current geopolitical realities, while fostering direct connections and opportunities throughout Participating Economies.

New Zealand's example shows the immense potential of this untapped market and under-utilized international tool. Implementing IPETCA would be a cost-neutral way of diversifying trading partners and promoting economic growth.

ESTIMATED INDIGENOUS ECONOMIES OF PARTICIPATING ECONOMIES AS OF 2021 (ESTIMATES FOR CHINESE TAIPEI WERE UNAVAILABLE)



AUSTRALIA
AU \$10B
(CA \$8.97B)



NEW ZEALAND
NZ \$75B
(CA \$60.5B)



CANADA
CA \$56.1B

‘Buy Indigenous’ is ‘Buy Canada’

The Indigenous Peoples Economic Trade Cooperation Arrangement, launched in 2021, should be a key part of the Canadian response to American trade threats.



Indigenous voices should also feature prominently in discussions to reduce internal trade barriers, writes CSG Senator PJ Prosper. *Photograph courtesy of Senator PJ Prosper*

OPINION | BY CSG SENATOR PJ PROSPER | February 13, 2025

The looming spectre of a trade war with the United States has unlocked a new level of patriotism among many Canadians, and a desire to support Canadian businesses. There have also been calls to insulate the Canadian economy by diversifying our trade portfolio and breaking down interprovincial trade barriers.

But there is yet another source of underused economic potential: Indigenous-owned businesses.

Canada stands on Indigenous ancestral lands, and so our businesses are structured to support our homeland; there is no hidden American conglomerate propping us up. To buy Indigenous is to buy Canadian.

It's not just a symbolic choice. Canada estimates its Indigenous economy to be worth around \$56.1-billion in 2021, and Statistics Canada has noted that the Indigenous economy is "outpacing growth in the total economy."

Supporting Indigenous businesses has beneficial international effects, as well. In 2021, Canada became one of four countries to endorse the Indigenous Peoples Economic Trade Cooperation Arrangement (IPETCA) alongside Australia, New Zealand, and Taiwan. Collectively, these four countries are known as "participating economies."

One of IPETCA's objectives is to encourage the participating economies to facilitate "trading relationships with, between, and among Indigenous Peoples." To understand how significant IPETCA could be, we need only look at the estimated Indigenous economies of the participating countries.

For instance, New Zealand estimates the Māori economy to be worth approximately NZ\$75-billion (C\$60.65-billion), while Australia estimates the value of its Indigenous economy to be A\$10-billion annually (C\$8.97-billion).

Despite this extraordinary potential boost to our income-based gross domestic product, IPETCA is not widely known in Indigenous business circles, nor has there been significant action on Canada's part.

In a recent meeting with some Indigenous business leaders, only one organization had ever heard of IPETCA, and one group noted its surprise that this arrangement had not been mentioned during a recent symposium organized by Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian Council for Indigenous Business focused on boosting Indigenous trade and exports.

IPETCA should be an important part of the Canadian response to American trade threats given its economic significance and the opportunity it brings to deepen ties with non-U.S. trading partners.

Meanwhile, Indigenous voices should also feature prominently in discussions to reduce internal trade barriers.

I agree with the sentiments expressed by Federation of Canadian Municipalities president Rebecca Bligh when she called for a coordinated response to potential tariffs at all levels of government.

She quite rightly points out that these tariffs would be devastating on local economies. As such, we need to ensure that municipal, Indigenous, provincial, and federal levels of government are united in our efforts to counteract the negative effects American tariffs would have on Canadian businesses.

It should also be pointed out that eliminating these trade barriers would be a boon to Indigenous nations that cross one or more provincial boundaries.

While breaking down interprovincial borders would be helpful, we must acknowledge that, according to Statistics Canada, "the United States was the destination for 75.9 per cent of Canada's total exports, and was the source of 62.2 per cent of Canada's total imports."

We are quickly learning the cost of placing too many eggs in one basket.

While the current threat of tariffs has taught our government that Canada needs to be less complacent and less reliant on our trade relationship with the U.S., the true test of a lesson learned will be in the actions taken moving forward.

We stand at the precipice of an opportunity to truly redefine the way Canadians do business domestically and internationally.

Now is the time to make use of these international instruments, to diversify our trading dance card, and to support local economies—including Indigenous businesses.

LAC one-pager regarding Digital Sovereignty

June 20, 2025

Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Library and Archives Canada

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is the custodian of many records about or relating to First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Increasing access to these records is at the core of how we carry out our mandate.

As the cornerstone of our implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, LAC is working to respect Indigenous Data Sovereignty over these records. For us, that means striving to increase the control and decision-making that Indigenous Peoples have over their histories, in support of Indigenous self-determination and nation-building.

Established in 2018, LAC's Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) is an important first step in this work. The IAC provides LAC with advice, makes recommendations, and offers strategic direction regarding other engagement activities. Based on IAC guidance, LAC has also carried out a first phase of distinctions-based external engagement and relationship renewal activities, starting with existing relationships with capacity and recognized expertise in Indigenous Data Sovereignty – such as the First Nations Information Governance Centre, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Manitoba Métis Federation.

To carry out this work, LAC has also established an internal Indigenous Data Sovereignty Working Group. This Working Group is developing LAC's public Vision Statement on Indigenous Data Sovereignty, which will set out our commitment and guiding principles. This will be the basis for an Action Plan that prioritizes real and meaningful actions, creates new initiatives in partnership, and implements a measurable path forward.

The Working Group is also consolidating what LAC is hearing from Indigenous partners, Rightsholders, and clients. Additionally, it is supporting an internal assessment of LAC policies, programs, and activities – to identify clear ways to establish best practices as the new standard communities can expect from working and collaborating with LAC.

Connecting with LAC

The Indigenous Reference Services team at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is a small team of reference archivists who help researchers explore historical collections related to Indigenous communities. The team helps clients access LAC's many services and resources, and provides guidance and support as they conduct their research. They provide specialized presentations and workshops, available both in Ottawa and online, to assist our clients in locating and accessing the records they need. Please do not hesitate to contact the team with any inquiries you may have at reference@lac-bac.gc.ca.

LAC collaborates with a range of organizations, including libraries, archives, Indigenous organizations, and research institutions in Canada and abroad. These collaborations support initiatives such as public programming and increasing access. LAC is supporting user needs with evolving technologies and innovation through external collaboration, and welcomes engagement with user groups, including Indigenous communities, to broaden access to collections and reach new audiences.

SEN. PJ PROSPER SEEKS TO RE-INTRODUCE:

AN ACT RESPECTING A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE REPATRIATION OF INDIGENOUS HUMAN REMAINS AND CULTURAL PROPERTY



Introduced in the House of Commons - Feb. 1, 2018 by MP Bill Casey (Cumberland-Colchester)

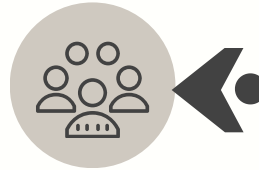


Received in the Senate - Feb. 20, 2019
Died on the Order Paper when Parliament was recessed in June, 2019 and a federal election was called that fall.



6 DAYS OF DEBATE

There was a total of 3 days debate at 2nd Reading, 1 day of consideration at report stage, and two days of debate at 3rd Reading. There was no debate in the Senate.



5 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

15 different witnesses appeared before committee, representing 6 different Indigenous organizations from across Canada.



UNANIMOUS VOTE

There were 10 minor amendments made during committee consideration and the bill subsequently passed unanimously at 3rd Reading.

Pros and Cons of a Private Member's Bill/Senate Public Bill

Pros

- Highlights the importance of an issue or initiative by spurring debate in both Chambers
- Generates a body of evidence including affected peoples and subject matter experts through committee studies
- Creates action and progress on topics important to the group the Senator is hoping to serve by introducing the Bill

Cons

- Cannot include any measures that would create new government expenditures

Example of Note:

The Federal Framework on Autism Spectrum Disorder Act was introduced as a Senate Public Bill and resulted in a co-developed national framework as well as major budget commitments.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

1. The definition of *Minister* was amended to specify the Minister of Canadian Heritage.
2. A reference to the inclusion of provinces and territories in the co-development of the strategy was added.
3. Explicit reference to Article 31 of UNDRIP was added
4. The scope of the bill was expanded to include human remains in addition to cultural property.
5. The Bill was changed to specify that a report on the national framework must be tabled in both Houses of Parliament within three years of receiving Royal Assent.
6. The scope of the report to be tabled two years after the launch of the national strategy was expanded to "include the Minister's conclusions and recommendations regarding the strategy and any outcomes that result from its implementation and it may include appropriate information on repatriated Indigenous human remains and cultural property and any repatriation efforts currently under way".
7. The title and short title were changed to reflect the expanded scope from an earlier amendment.



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Important Disclaimer

As a Senator, Senator Prosper is not a member of the Government; he is a federal Parliamentarian dedicated to voicing regional and concerns from marginalized groups. His outreach is not considered consultation; rather, his dedication to hearing directly from those affected by federal actions is his way of ensuring that every intervention he makes in Parliament carries the weight and wisdom of those who offer their thoughts, ideas, aspirations and concerns to him.

What we heard from Grand Council:

- It's important to meet in person.
- We are a government and we need to be treated that way.
- We need support and the tools to govern the nation.
- We should have an app where we can access everything we need in one click.



How we responded:

Sen. Prosper, Regional Chief Paul and their offices met with the Grand Council Executive after the Millbrook meeting and presented a 5-year plan that focused on governance, technology, administrative support, and building strong partnerships. This plan will be presented for discussion at the next gathering to be held in the fall of 2025.

We also designed and developed a mobile app based on the suggestion of Keptin Melvin Jaddore that would let Grand Council communicate its works, history and Mi'kmaw history in general with Mi'kmaw throughout the Nation. Grand Council members will also be able to use the app to access emails, join meetings, access documents from past meetings, direct messaging and more.

Deployment of the phones that were agreed to in Millbrook and the app will also happen at the next gathering.



Increased funding pledged:

Based on the needs outlined by Grand Council, and the 5-year plan discussed with the Executive, Sen. Prosper and RC Paul sought additional funding and were awarded **\$1.25M from the Fulcher Foundation**, split over 5 years. How this funding will be used is subject to approval by Grand Council at the next gathering.

Partners coming together to support Grand Council.

Many partners have come together to support Grand Council's modernization efforts for a total **in-kind contribution of approximately \$1.29M** over the next five years.



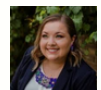
Has committed to providing up to 55 free phones and a heavily discounted annual plan at \$40/month/line.



Tom Johnson & Kji Wikuom Studios (Eskasoni) provides free web hosting, translation and multi-media support.



Dr. Jane McMillan of St. Francis Xavier University will be providing research and advisory support as the Grand Council modernizes its operations.



Assistant Professor Annie Battiste of Cape Breton University will be contributing to research required for the rebuilding project.



Ulnooweg has recently pledged to support additional fundraising efforts for Grand Council initiatives.



The Atlantic Policy Congress will be leading the work to reconcile how the Grand Council works with elected Chiefs to advance the priorities of Mi'kmaw Nation.



Office of the Regional Chief
Assembly of First Nations
Nova Scotia



The Senate Work

USING THE PARLIAMENTARY PLATFORM TO PUSH
FOR ACTION AND PROGRESS

Interventions on the Senate Floor

Using speeches, statements and Question Period to advocate and educate

Visit www.PJProsper.ca/senate-business/ to read all the Senator's interventions.

Speeches - Normally, a Senator has 15 minutes to speak “on debate” regarding any item currently before the Senate. (Items can be Bills, inquiries and motions.) Sponsors, Critics, certain leaders of Senate Parliamentary Groups, and designated speakers for bills can have up to 45 minutes.

Senator Prosper often uses his speeches to bring his perspective as a Mi'kmaw man and lawyer in an effort to broaden the scope of the debate on issues that are important to Indigenous peoples. See, for example, his Reply to the Speech from the Throne and his third reading intervention on Bill C-5, *The One Canadian Economy Bill*. He also uses the opportunity to bring forward amendments to try and ensure that legislation reflects Indigenous priorities and protects Indigenous rights.

Statements - Senators can reserve a 3-minute spot to discuss any topic not currently on the Order Paper (the Senate's agenda).

Senator Prosper has used this time to do many things, including to highlight the efforts of Mi'kmaq throughout Mi'kma'ki, to pay tribute to notable leaders that have passed, and to share traditional knowledge through his speaking series “*Nta'tukwaqnminal*,” or “Our Stories.”

Question Period - Senators have the opportunity to ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate and, sometimes, Ministers, questions during Question Period.

Every question that Senator Prosper has brought forward has been in relation to the priorities brought forward in *Reconcili-ACTION*. These questions can be useful in getting answers to questions that communities and organizations have had difficulty obtaining themselves, and in flagging issues of importance, which, in turn, can sometimes help to remove barriers that some initiatives are facing within the government bureaucracy. It also helps to create a public record that leadership and organizations can use to hold the government to account.

Response to the Speech from the Throne

October 8, 2024

Honourable senators, as stated by Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mary Simon in her Speech from the Throne:

Reconciliation is not a single act, nor does it have an end date. It is a lifelong journey of healing, respect and understanding.

Colleagues, through my speech I will expand upon the meaning of reconciliation and its relationship to the duty to consult. I will talk about Bill C-49, my dear friend Wayne Fulcher, share a strange dream about Bill C-49 and end with a postscript tribute.

Bill C-49, An Act to amend the Canada—Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Act and the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts, is a complex piece of legislation.

I was not able to participate at third reading last week due to previous commitments, but I watched the recorded proceedings. I would like to thank Senators Deacon, Ross, Aucoin, Robinson, Verner, Tannas and all my fellow Canadian Senators Group, or CSG, members. Thank you for helping to create a space in this chamber and in committee for my voice to be heard. Also, thank you, Senator Wells and Senator McCallum, for your support. Finally, thank you, Senator Dalphond, for calling me a troublemaker.

Colleagues, consultation is reconciliation in action. The law provides that when the Crown contemplates an action or decision that has the potential to adversely affect a section 35 right, they have a duty to consult with the rights holders and, where appropriate, accommodate the Aboriginal interest. The Mi'kmaq have existing aboriginal and treaty rights that have been recognized and affirmed by the highest court in this country, the Supreme Court of Canada.

I want to recognize Senator Petten for her efforts and her success as the Senate sponsor of Bill C-49. In her third reading speech, she provides:

While this legislation will create new economic opportunities, this bill ensures it is done so in a way that consults Indigenous peoples . . .

Response to the Speech from the Throne

October 8, 2024

Further:

The duty to consult on any matter that affects the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples throughout the life cycle of offshore renewable energy projects is one that is taken seriously.

Colleagues, with Bill C-49 the evidence is clear. It is clear that Bill C-49, along with its mirror provincial legislation, can confer a legal interest or duty to a regulator to consult and accommodate section 35 rights. There has been no consultation undertaken by either the federal or provincial governments in drafting Bill C-49.

It is clear that evidence of engagement was limited to two letters, one response and a meeting with community representatives and that engagement is separate and distinct from the Crown's duty to consult. It is clear that, in 2010, a formal agreement — terms of reference — outlines how consultations will take place in Nova Scotia. Those terms of reference have been used for hundreds of consultations with the Mi'kmaq and federal and provincial governments. And it is clear that neither the federal nor provincial government raised Bill C-49 in the many consultations and energy meetings with the Mi'kmaq.

The federal government views consultation taking place at the final authorization stage. Chief Sidney Peters, co-chair of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, was mandated by 12 of the 13 Mi'kmaq bands in Nova Scotia to suggest changes to Bill C-49. A consultation process with the Mi'kmaq should cover off all the key decision points in the strategic planning process as outlined in Bill C-49.

Last Wednesday, I attended a celebration of life for my dear friend Wayne Fulcher. My father died when I was 2, and Wayne was like a father to me. He was in this chamber last year when I was sworn in as Senator, and died at age 83.

What I loved about Wayne was that he was always eager to learn. He and his wife, Mary Ann, founded the Fulcher Foundation, a private charity focused on inclusiveness and rural economic growth and sustainability. The Fulcher Foundation is sponsoring a governance project with the Mi'kmaq Grand Council. They are an excellent example of reconciliation in action.

Response to the Speech from the Throne

October 8, 2024

Wayne would often state, “say what you mean and mean what you say.” He couldn’t stand it when people beat around the bush and did not come right out and say what they intended. Then, once they said something, he expected people to follow through and do what they said — what they committed to.

At the event, a person shared a George Bernard Shaw quote, which seemed to encapsulate Wayne’s life. It provides:

This is the true joy in life, being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one. Being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it what I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

This represents the spirit of Wayne Fulcher, and I will forever miss him.

And now the final act. You might ask why I titled this part “the final act.” It is because I was obsessed with Bill C-49. Senator Petten, I am not saying that I am obsessed with you.

Colleagues, Aboriginal and treaty rights are largely based upon history, culture and tradition. I was obsessed with the manner in which the constitutional rights of the Mi’kmaq were abandoned in the drafting of Bill C-49. The road through the litigation of Mi’kmaq rights is littered with expedient political decisions and compromises. Government officials, ministers and parliamentarians — please take notice that there is a consultation process in Nova Scotia that works. Ask about it. Use it.

My obsession with Bill C-49 even impacted my dreams. For example, have you ever seen Liam Neeson in Taken? In the movie, there is a scene where his character is talking on the phone with the kidnapper who has his daughter. I dreamed that I was Liam Neeson and the kidnapper was the federal government, which was holding hostage our Mi’kmaq rights. Can you imagine?

Response to the Speech from the Throne

October 8, 2024

The dialogue goes like this:

I don't know which level of government you represent. I don't know what you want. If you're looking to hold ransom our Mi'kmaq rights, I can tell you I don't have money, but what I do have is a very practical set of skills that I have acquired over a very long career and that make me a nightmare for people like you. If you meaningfully consult on our rights, that will be the end of it. I will not look for you. I will not pursue you in committee. But if you don't, I will look for you, I will find you and I will leave much carnage in my wake.

I hope to have no more dreams like this.

As a postscript, I want to dedicate this speech to my sister Dolly — or Darlene — Prosper.

Senator Coyle worked with Dolly while at StFX. On this day a year ago, Dolly crossed into the spirit world. She played a major role in the development of my career. She twice convinced me to run for chief in my community. On the back of her funeral card is a quote from Marianne Williamson. It reads:

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, "Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?" Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

Wela'liog and thank you very much.

Bill C-5, *One Canadian Economy Bill*

June 26, 2025

Honourable senators, I was sworn into this chamber in September 2023. In my almost two years of sitting in this chamber, I've started to see some troubling patterns emerge.

First, like clockwork, an emergency rears its ugly head close to the holiday break in December and just before the summer recess in June. While I understand these periods just prior to an extended break are often referred to as “silly season” on the Hill, the constant and consistent chorus of “Senators, we must pass this bill without delay and without amendment due to . . .” — insert court date, existential crisis or external pressure point here — is becoming tiresome. At what point will the government seek that court extension, start the process early or even decide to sit later so that we can actually do our jobs and do them well? Senators who were here during the last Parliament may remember Bill S-7, which sought to amend the Customs Act and the Preclearance Act, 2016. It allowed border security to seize and search digital devices. This raised many questions around how to balance security with personal privacy.

As Senator Wells pointed out in his third reading speech:

The government put forth the bill that we have before us just a few short weeks ago. Prior to that time, there was no active engagement by government officials with any outside parties. There was no indication of what they were contemplating. Instead, we had a bill dropped on the Senate with a demand that it be passed as quickly as possible. And you'll recall, colleagues, that it was introduced in the Senate on the day the extension expired.

We were told it was vital that we pass this legislation as soon as possible without delay. Yet, colleagues, Bill S-7 never made it past first reading in the other place, so I question how much of an emergency it truly was.

Programming motions are also becoming the norm. As a new senator, I bought into the argument that programming motions help to structure our time and avoid political games delaying key pieces of legislation. However, it now feels as though programming motions are nothing but shackles that constrain our ability to give thorough examination to bills — bills that would have significant impacts on our communities and the country as a whole.

Bill C-5, *One Canadian Economy Bill*

June 26, 2025

Bill C-5, for instance, was amended in the other place to include allowances for an “active and meaningful” process of consultation. I would have appreciated the opportunity to bring in the minister responsible to ask them what that type of process would look like. Arguably, we should already be employing an active and meaningful process as the government seeks to meet its obligations under section 35 of the Constitution. That line brings me little comfort. In the conversations with rights holders over the past few days, that feeling is shared across the country.

Another pattern we seem to fall into a lot are pre-studies. In an attempt to understand more about this chamber, its history and why we have the Rules and procedures that we do, I reached out to the Canadian Senators Group’s research bureau, which is an excellent resource. I want to share some portions of a briefing note they prepared on this subject:

The practice of Senate pre-studies evolved from the process established by the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance in the 1940s for studying the Estimates before the related supply bills were introduced in the chamber. The Senate adapted the process to deal with sweeping reforms to Canada’s income tax regime introduced in the 1970s following the Carter Royal Commission on Taxation. To facilitate more substantive review of the voluminous tax legislation, the Senate Banking Committee held meetings on the subject matter of the legislation before it was introduced in the Senate Chamber. The unique legislative process became known as the “Hayden Formula,” after the chair of the Banking committee, Senator Salter Hayden. The intention of the formula was to allow the Senate more time to study complex legislation and make proposals for amendments that could be incorporated in the bill before it was passed by the House of Commons.

In subsequent Parliaments, the Banking committee continued to use the Hayden Formula to study tax bills and other fiscal matters. Of the 30 bills pre-studied in the 1970s, 23 were conducted by the Banking committee. The purpose and scope of pre-studies, however, changed considerably in the 1980s.

Bill C-5, *One Canadian Economy Bill*

June 26, 2025

They were often used to accelerate the legislative process by allowing the Senate time to study bills that arrived in the chamber shortly before a recess period. A controversial 1991 government motion to refer four bills to committee for pre-study led Royce Frith, the Opposition Leader, to offer a “bouquet of repentance” for his original support of pre-studies when the practice began in the 1970s, saying “what was originally intended to have but limited application became the rule.” In the same debate, Senator Douglas Everett, who had also supported the initial use of Senate pre-studies, observed that “pre-study has become a manner of getting Senate interference out of the way.”

Mounting frustration about the shifting practice of pre-studies meant that after 1990, the number of pre-studies dropped considerably. In fact, between 1993 and 2009, only one non-budgetary bill — the Antiterrorism Act introduced in the wake of September 11 — was subject of a pre-study. Since 2010, the number of pre-studies has increased, though the majority have been for bills related to financial measures. In the 43rd and 44th Parliament, however, the assigned committee and legislative subject matter of pre-studies have become more diverse, with half of the bills referred to committee relating to non-financial measures.

Colleagues, not only have we lost our way with pre-studies as they were originally intended to be, but we have, as Senator Simons said yesterday, painted ourselves into a corner where after 12 hours of pre-study via Committee of the Whole, we are now asked to vote on a bill that has changed substantively. Colleagues, we have no ability to hear from witnesses as to the potential repercussions or unintended consequences of these amendments.

We also have not given any real time for First Nations to analyze these amendments and see how they address their concerns. Instead, we must rely on what few briefs and open letters we are able to amass during a time when many Indigenous leaders are in ceremony and celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day and when much of Parliament is away on holiday for Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day.

Bill C-5, *One Canadian Economy Bill*

June 26, 2025

The final pattern I want to point out today is that when the Senate begins to sink its teeth into issues embedded with these big, rushed and emergency bills and even a whisper of an amendment emerges, we inevitably receive a letter from one or more ministers trying to appease our fears and talk us out of passing amendments.

Case in point: Yesterday, on June 25, Senator Yussuff tabled a letter from Minister LeBlanc thanking us for our work and pointing to how the government has or will be addressing the concerns raised in our Committee of the Whole proceedings.

But, colleagues, I have seen this movie before. I've eaten the popcorn, and I know how it ends. I'd like to share with senators a passage from a June 17, 2025, open letter from the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs to Prime Minister Carney on C-5:

The government's background document for Indigenous audiences then claimed "[w]e have heard from Provinces, Territories and Indigenous Peoples that they want to see projects like mines, nuclear facilities, ports and other infrastructure prioritized." We see this statement as misleading, as it casts Indigenous Peoples in a singular light and certainly fails to capture our interests, since no advance discussions were held with us. Unfortunately, this is not the first time our Mi'kmaw leadership has been put in a compromised position when bills are rushed through the legislative process. It is becoming an alarming pattern at both the federal and provincial level. We are not being given opportunities to have our voices heard before the introduction, or during the passage of bills.

When legislation unsurprisingly fails to address our interests, we are being given broken promises that our concerns will be addressed after-the-fact in regulations. Some of these examples include:

Bill C-49: An Act to amend the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Act and the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act – This Act has serious potential to impact the section 35 rights of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. Despite having meetings specifically dedicated to emerging developments in the energy sector, this Bill was never put on the agenda nor raised by the Crown.

Bill C-5, *One Canadian Economy Bill*

June 26, 2025

We sit at several tables with the Provincial and Federal Governments where this bill should have been discussed but was never raised or flagged for us. From a relationship perspective, these types of omissions are highly erosive. Throughout the legislative process, our team was repeatedly assured that our concerns would be addressed in the regulations, but the proposed regulations make zero mention of Indigenous consultation or Aboriginal and Treaty Rights under s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and in no way address any of our feedback.

Those assurances came in — you guessed it — a letter from Minister Wilkinson.

Look also to Bill C-45, which legalized cannabis in Canada. Assurances were made in a letter from the Ministers of Indigenous Affairs and Health, promising to work on a framework that would enable First Nations to tax and regulate cannabis on reserve. However, seven years later, that has yet to happen. These broken promises have happened so often that our Indigenous Peoples Committee had a long list of studies dedicated to pushing the government to account for their lack of follow-through.

Bill C-5 has not only illuminated for me these troublesome patterns, but also highlighted that Canada is becoming a country of extremes. Gone is the ability to have a moderate social discourse. Instead, positions must be black and white with no grey space in between.

When I came out against the rushed nature of this bill and spoke about the need to amend or even delay its passage, the racist vitriol and threats my office experienced were so intense, staff asked for permission to not answer phone calls from unknown callers. That is not right and not acceptable.

Too often, Indigenous peoples are painted as barriers to progress. We are seen coming “. . . hat in hand . . .” to government, as one Canadian leader recently put it, and that upsets me because I know that all Indigenous people want progress. We are not opposed to building infrastructure and want opportunities to generate own-source revenue. No one wants to watch our children grow up in squalor, with no access to clean drinking water, no opportunity for good-paying jobs and no support for our sick and dying.

Bill C-5, *One Canadian Economy Bill*

June 26, 2025

However, we do not want success and progress to come on the backs of Indigenous peoples. We want to be at the table making decisions alongside Canadian politicians, because these decisions affect us, our lands and our resources.

These racist tropes are built on a continued belief in terra nullius and the Doctrine of Discovery. They are born from the ongoing belief that Canada was a barren wasteland filled with savages prior to the arrival of the English and the French. Those who perpetuate stereotypes of lazy Indians are those who buy into the types of claims you see in editorials like Nigel Biggar's June 23, 2025, National Post article, which claims that the idea of Canada being built on stolen land "... historically and legally inaccurate." It's people who make the claim that they paid for the title to this land fair and square. It's folks who seriously ask, in their comments online:

I wonder what the North American continent would look like without the White Man's immigration over hundreds of years.

This country has passed laws that restricted our ability to leave our reserves and forbade us from practising our traditions and speaking our languages. They have passed laws that caused our kids to be forcibly removed from us and put into residential schools. We were even barred from hiring lawyers to try to defend ourselves and our rights. By the by, colleagues, all those laws had to pass through this chamber in order to become law.

That is why we push so hard in this new era of reconciliation: to ensure that there is no backslide. Never again do we want to have decisions dictated to us. We want to be part of the discussion from the very beginning.

The sad thing, colleagues, is that we likely would have come to this place, or a very similar one, had the government done its job and taken the time to consult with Indigenous peoples. The government's promise was to break down the remaining federal barriers to interprovincial trade by Canada Day. That's Part 1 of this bill.

Bill C-5, *One Canadian Economy Bill*

June 26, 2025

Part 2 of this bill, the building Canada act, was never promised on such a short timeline. I am confident that by investing a few more months into this bill and ensuring that rights holders had an opportunity to share their thoughts and offer revisions, we would have seen this bill pass with overwhelming support. But I suppose now we will never know.

I will pause here to say thank you to my colleague Senator Patterson and her staff, who advocated so strongly for the inclusion of the voices of Indigenous rights holders in our limited proceedings on this bill.

I also want to thank my Canadian Senators Group, or CSG, colleagues, who recognized how important it was to me that we ensured there was Indigenous content on the record. They supported me by giving me ample opportunity to ask questions of ministers and witnesses. Thank you, dear colleagues, for creating the space for me to share my voice. It is because of that advocacy that we have such powerful words, like those of Chief Shelly Moore-Frappier of Temagami First Nation, in the Hansard. She told us:

Canada continues to speak about nation-to-nation relationships and reconciliation. This legislation does the opposite. It asserts power over First Peoples, our resources and our rights. It was developed without us. It vaguely addresses our constitutional and treaty protections, and if passed, it will further entrench unilateralism as the default method of governing First Peoples.

Bill C-5 is not reconciliation; it is a betrayal of it.

The duty to consult has never been enough. It has always placed the burden of proof and advocacy on First Nations to defend our own rights, often with limited resources and no guarantees. . . .

Other right holders have reached out, insistent that we must hear from them before passing this legislation. While there is no longer an opportunity for them to speak to senators directly, I want to share some of their words with you.

Bill C-5, *One Canadian Economy Bill*

June 26, 2025

Councillor Larry Sault, from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, said the following to me in an emailed statement:

Historically, “national interest” was the language used when Sir John A MacDonald (Progressive Conservative) championed his dream and was the driving force for the construction of the transcontinental Canadian Pacific Railway (about land and development). History records the atrocious acts he committed against our people to have them removed out of the path he wanted for CPR. Forced removal from our people’s homelands, starvation tactics to have our people submit to his whims, killing off the sustenance (buffalo) etc. At the time it was called “the Indian problem.”

He went on to ask, “Is this what Canada wants to see in 2025?”

Chief Raymond Powder of Fort McKay First Nation notes that:

Our primary focus is economic reconciliation. This is the lens through which our Nation is approaching Bill C-5.

He goes on to note his community’s desire to “give depth and meaning” to paragraph 5(6)(d) of the bill, which points to advancing “. . . the interests of Indigenous peoples.” Later in his submission, he notes:

We recognize the extremely short timeframe available for input on this proposed legislation. We will be available for meetings or consultations as they arise to make our voice heard during the legislative process. Fort McKay First Nation is a sovereign Nation, and we want to continue our direct relationship with the federal government.

Similarly, Chief Phyllis Whitford of O’Chiese First Nation writes:

Despite all these decisions regarding our creator given gifts, we have never given up our responsibilities and authorities to care for those gifts. When King Charles III delivered the Throne Speech, he made a special reference to the right of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). This is our treaty right...

Bill C-5, *One Canadian Economy Bill*

June 26, 2025

...Canada without discussion with our Peoples, introduced Bill C5: One Canadian Economy Act. Our Territories and Resources are going to be subjected to the unilateral decisions made by the Governor in Council. The process by passes Parliament bringing to an end — 400 years or more of parliamentary history. There is no need to have a House of Commons or a Senate — when Cabinet can make the decisions. Except, there is a problem. Peace and Friendship Treaties made with our Peoples. The Crown's subjects to do not get to make the rules to overtake our rights. While the House of Commons can give up its responsibilities to its constituents — we cannot give up our responsibilities and obligations to our future generations.

All across this country, similar sentiments are being expressed by rights holders and representative Indigenous organizations like the Assembly of First Nations. In his letter, Minister Leblanc notes that:

The proposed legislation aims to accelerate major projects without compromising legal obligations, such as UNDA and the Duty to Consult, or broader reconciliation objectives.

Well, colleagues, UNDA, in section 5 states that:

The Government of Canada must, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, take all measures necessary to ensure that the laws of Canada are consistent with the Declaration.

Further, section 6(1) states that the government must “. . . prepare and implement an action plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.”

Under the “Shared Priorities” chapter of the 2023-2028 Action Plan, the very first priority area goal is to:

. . . ensure a Canada where: Respect for Indigenous rights is systematically embedded in federal laws and policies developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples affected by them.

Bill C-5, *One Canadian Economy Bill*

June 26, 2025

Now, we are too far gone for Bill C-5 to be developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, but there is still an opportunity to ensure that this bill is amended in such a way that we embed our right to free, prior and informed consent, or FPIC, in this legislation. FPIC is not a veto; it is a standard of treatment and a recognition of our inherent right to self-governance and self-determination.

I know that many of you will be hesitant to amend this legislation. To many of my colleagues, refrains such as the following must sound all too familiar: “We must not go against the elected chamber,” or “We shouldn’t lose sight of the fact that we are appointed and thus do not have a mandate to amend the legislation that has already passed the other place,” or — one of my personal favourites — “Trust us.” However, the very reason we are appointed is so that we are outside the pressures of the electoral cycle and are able to stand on principle against poorly drafted legislation.

We are not “less than.” We are a chamber equal in stature to the other place. We can draft and amend legislation. In fact, it is our duty to ensure that legislation is reflective of the regions we represent, and it is our duty to give voice to minorities that are often marginalized. I cringe when I hear people say that we need to back away from amendments lest it turn public opinion against us. Senators have often remarked on Canadians questioning our relevance. I say to you: We are only irrelevant if we make ourselves irrelevant.

I want to challenge you using the words of Chief Moore-Frappier:

I remind you we are ready to move forward together. If Canada is serious about reconciliation, then it must start acting like a treaty partner. The honour of the Crown is not just ceremonial; it is the moral foundation of your relationship with First Peoples. That honour is on the line.

The Chief also said that the only real currency is trust.

Wela’lioq. Thank you very much.

Bill C-5, *One Canadian Economy Bill*

June 26, 2025

Therefore, honourable senators, in amendment, I move:

That Bill C-5 be not now read a third time, but that it be amended, in clause 4,

(a) on page 10, by replacing lines 30 to 37 with the following:

“Council must consider the following factors:

(a) the extent to which the project can

(i) strengthen Canada’s autonomy, resilience and security,

(ii) provide economic or other benefits to Canada,

(iii) have a high likelihood of successful execution,

(iv) advance the interests of Indigenous peoples by fulfilling Canada’s commitment to obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of those peoples,”;

(b) on page 11, by replacing lines 1 and 2 with the following:

“(v) contribute to clean growth and to meeting Canada’s objectives with respect to climate change; and

(b) any other factor that the Governor in Council considers relevant.”.

This amendment was defeated by a vote of:

Yes - 28

No - 48

Abstentions - 8

Interventions at Committee

Bringing the Indigenous lens to studies

Another mechanism that the Senator can use in order to bring issues of importance to Mi'kmaq forward is through his committee work. Senate committees can undertake special studies on topics broadly related to their overall committee mandate, and study bills referred to them by the Senate Chamber before moving to clause-by-clause consideration.

Senator Prosper has brought forward amendments, questioned witnesses and participated in the review of multiple bills. He has brought forward study suggestions and did so again in September of 2025, when committees began again in earnest.

Each committee has a smaller “steering committee” that provides leadership for the committee by helping to organize the agenda and committee initiatives. This includes organizing committee witnesses, considering study proposals brought forward, and organizing committee events such as the Indigenous People’s Committee’s annual event, Voices of Indigenous Youth Leaders.

Steering committees consist of the Chair, Deputy Chair(s) and other steering members, with all four Senators representing each of the four Senate Parliamentary Groups. With one exception, steering committees do not include representatives of the Government Representative’s Office. They are supported by Senators’ staff, the Clerk of the Committee and analysts from the Library of parliament.

Senator Prosper sits on the Standing Senate Committee for Indigenous Peoples and the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs. He is also the Canadian Senators Group’s steering committee representative on both committees. He has held these positions since he was appointed. Recently, he has also joined the Fisheries and Oceans Committee as a general member.

The Tables

UPDATED PRIORITY TABLES FOR ORGANIZATIONS
AND COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT MI'KMA'KI

Getting the Updates

Demonstrating progress (or lack thereof) to ensure accountability and movement on key issues

In recognition of the attention paid to and the use made of the *Reconcili-ACTION* report, it was important to Sen. Prosper that we report on any progress made by the office, as well as the progress made by individual communities and organizations. The purpose would be twofold: to ensure that the most up-to-date information is available for leaders and policy-makers examining issues pertaining to the Mi'kmaq, and to highlight any areas where the issues have been fully resolved and/or where more action is needed.

Through this exercise, the Senator has been able to stay current on the most pressing priorities for participating communities and organizations, while having a basis for re-evaluating his own priorities; the Senator strives to ensure that areas of high importance to those he engages with are the areas that he focuses on.

Recognizing that many communities and organizations have limited capacity for the many number of files and priorities that they deal with on a day-to-day basis, participants were offered a chance to either submit their updates and comments; or to meet again with the Senator and his team for them to then summarize. Those participants who chose to write their own updates have had their comments copy and pasted, edited only for formatting purposes, brevity or to eliminate exposition meant to be held in confidence with the Senator's office.

Some communities and organizations were unable to participate by the publishing of this report.

All updates and comments are noted in a separate column (with the exception of the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM), who also included two, more fulsome reports from individual departments within the organization), while communities unable to participate in the update sessions have had their tables from *Reconcili-ACTION* included in this report for ease of reference.

The Grand Council

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	• Need to determine who sits at the negotiation tables for Mi'kmaq • Who has the authourity to make decisions about lands and resources in Mi'kma'ki? • We are one territory not subject to provincial boundaries • We deserve free access without tolls/impediments across our territory • Look at a Mi'kma'ki land claim? • Capacity development support for the Grand Council ◦ Office, administrative support, communications (website, social media, etc.) • Working together to push back on Canada's laws and policies ◦ E.g. – Income tax – full exemption regardless of working on or off community ◦ Looking at collecting a percentage of the tax collected from Mi'kma'ki back? Colonial approach to resolving land issues • Want support building inclusion of Grand Council into Mi'kmaq organizations and initiatives ◦ Advisory committees, mentoring of Chiefs, etc. • Seeking official recognition through the courts or other mechanisms • Exercising our jurisdiction beyond our community boundaries • Question of consultation vs engagement and ensuring we have a real opportunity for feeding into decisions at beginning rather than perfunctory inclusion at the end • Want inclusion in international fora like UN	• The Grand Council is currently working with the APC and a working group of Keptins, members of the Executives and Chiefs to explore how the historic and elected governments can work together. • Grand Council members believe that land acknowledgements should be changed to focus on inherent rights and sovereignty and of the Mi'kmaw Nation; this change would recognize that Mi'kmaq cannot cede territory since they believe that land is shared • Need to clarify that a Mi'kma'ki claim is not an assertion to land • Question: Can federal funding be accepted without prejudice in order to maintain sovereignty? • Would like to continue pursuing getting accreditation at the UN like MKO

The Grand Council

Summarized from meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Health & Social Issues	• Not giving a second chance to our women – need to help them move past trauma/harm • Children services – need wrap-around services (addictions, mental health, etc.)	• Want program funding for youth initiatives on traditional values and issues related to Mi'kma'ki • Need parenting supports
Economic Development, Lands and Resources	• Elver fishery – decisions being made without us • Moose hunt – decisions being made without us • Can we issue quotas? Implement conservation strategies? What jurisdiction do we have and how do we exercise it? • Need support preserving our archeological sites • Want to get back to concept of m'sit no'kmaq	• With regard to the mosse hunt: meat is expensive; hunting and gathering would help keep people fed (support for traditional foods) • Elders believe elver fishing endangers the eel population; while they recognize it's lucrative, people cannot make money at the cost of the eels • Need to integrate traditional knowledge into conservation strategies as well as when making decisions on wildlife management • Addressing the tariffs remains a high priority • Wabanaki trade laws need revitalization – there are traditional laws that were in place a long time ago

The Grand Council

Summarized from meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Justice	Restitution for those who were abused/harmed in residential schools/day schools/foster care/in the healthcare system/other government institution	- By-laws – being hindered by federal and provincial governments; Need to implement a system like they have in other jurisdictions; in the example of MKO and FSIN where they are issuing tickets and collecting money, perhaps a percentage of that can be redirected to supporting the Grand Council - Need to recognize Indigenous laws and Indigenous legal decisions as equivalent to those of Canada - Need more education on Mi'kmaq/customary law - Mi'kmaq facing systematic racism in the justice system
Citizenship	- Mi'kmaq should determine who is Mi'kmaq - Status is a colonial construct	Need to get rid of the second-generation cut-off

The Grand Council

Summarized from meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Language, Culture & History	• Support for the revitalization of the language and traditional practices • Funding support for events to aid in remembering our history and culture • Funding for archiving the knowledge of elders • Funding for materials to share knowledge and history of Mi'kmaq throughout Mi'kma'ki • Support for educational materials aimed at passing on information on treaties – rights and obligations • Support to curb cultural appropriation that affects all Mi'kmaq people including, but not limited to: ◦ Jobs, education, falsifying information to obtain funding, stealing our culture for their own financial gain • Pushing for restitution of past harms including centralization	• The Fulcher Foundation has agreed to fund an app that will assist in sharing education materials on the history of the Mi'kmaq throughout Mi'kma'ki; it is currently being developed by the office of Sen. Prosper in cooperation with several academics and organizations

Organizations Supporting Mi'kmaq Nation - Atlantic Policy Congress (APC)

Content Submission

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	• Need to include Indigenous perspective on policy and major investments, not just legislation • Need more capacity development support • Need to work with various level of governments to ensure Indigenous people are getting maximum benefits of federal provincial agreements that impact First Nation communities	
Health & Social Issues	• Need more support for mental health and addictions • Seeing a high occurrence of chronic diseases and cancer throughout communities • Need more culturally-appropriate long-term and continuing care facilities to support elders and the differently abled • Need better emergency preparedness • Need capacity funding to support Indigenous healthcare workers • Need to address systemic racism in healthcare systems • Working on enhancing community-based care • Need to incorporate Indigenous approaches and knowledge in healthcare policies • Need additional supports for children and youth	• Need staff and capacity funding for emergency preparedness • Seeing progress in getting more Indigenous nurses and physicians; need to continue investing in Indigenous healthcare workers • APC continues to support strategies of the Wabanaki Council on Disability as outlined in their previous recommendations • Need to develop a crisis support circle for first responders within communities

Organizations Supporting Mi'kmaw Nation - Atlantic Policy Congress (APC)

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Health & Social Issues (continued)	- Recommendations of the Wabanaki Council on Disability: - Eliminate the Jordan's Principle "aging out" federal policy for those with intellectual disabilities - Increase services to the adult population of differently abled Canadians - Create and fund Youth Transition Coordinator Positions - Develop and deliver First Nations led culturally safe programming for all service providers - Need to reduce the wait times to access addictions treatment - Develop a crisis support circle for first responders within communities	
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	- Calling on DFO to support the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and to allocate \$40M on the strategy - Support of equal Indigenous participation in the economy and in post-secondary education to add an estimated \$2.4B to the Atlantic economy - Support for Indigenous initiatives to mitigate climate change	- Support for equal Indigenous participation should include the trades - Support for Indigenous initiatives to mitigate climate change should include investment in capacity development
Infrastructure	- Working on distinctions-based approaches to homelessness 12,799 units required to address the housing backlog & immediate need in Atlantic Canada; each community would need to build 38 new houses per year to address the backlog in 10 years	- Implemented distinctions-based homelessness funding provided directly to First Nations - Working on the development of an Atlantic Housing Agency business case

Organizations Supporting Mi'kmaw Nation - Wabanaki Two-Spirit Alliance (W2SA)

No Updates Received by Publishing Deadline

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Governance	• Need to ensure that money for research and programming related to Indigenous two-spirit and LGBTQ+ issues flows directly to Indigenous • Need core funding for W2SA
Health & Social Issues	• Need to address the addictions, suicide, homelessness and other social ills facing 2SLGBTQIAA+ • Need to redesign shelters to provide gender-affirming care • Believes Canada should support efforts to bring awareness and protection to 2S-queer people throughout the world • Indigenous youth are not being diagnosed properly • The government should act on the 32 Calls for Justice that relate to Two-Spirited people
Infrastructure	• Need an increase in transitional housing and shelters to provide safe spaces for homeless 2SLGBTQIAA+ • Need funding to create cultural supports and literacy on how to be a homeowner
Language, Culture & History	• Need to integrate traditional knowledge into policy

Organizations Supporting Mi'kmaw Nation - Wabanaki Two-Spirit Alliance Youth Council

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	- Want funding support for youth to be able to travel and connect with other youth nationally - Need more flexible funding options that are responsive to Indigenous realities and have less onerous reporting requirements	- We have accessed individual funding through Ulnoooweg, with their Professional Development and Conference Bursary, which provides up to \$3000 per individual. This is meant for Indigenous youth ages 18-35 in Atlantic Canada. This is limited to youth who apply individually, so we are still looking for broader funding options, specifically through the government. - Flexible funding is still an issue. We have found the most flexible funding comes from other Indigenous youth-led organizations. Government funding requirements remain the same.
Health & Social Issues	- Need more transitional housing and safe spaces to help avoid homelessness - Not enough programming to support youth under 18	- Transitional housing is still needed, especially for people who live on reserve and do not have access to the same supports that cities tend to have more of. - We are currently working on programming as a youth council. We currently have a grand secured to provide a on-time 2S youth summer camp for youth under 18 years old.

Organizations Supporting Mi'kmaw Nation - Wabanaki Two-Spirit Alliance Youth Council

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Justice	• Need more support services closer to communities	• This is still true and needed.
Infrastructure	• Want a plot of land for youth to be able to build on and use	• Currently exploring with Sen. Prosper the land that he has offered. We have secured funding through Indigenous Youth Roots and are seeking further community and government support to make it happen. Our first choice is to have a plot of land in Unama'ki, close to Sydney, since it is a centrally located area for our Wabanaki 2S Youth council members.

Organizations Supporting Mi'kmaw Nation - Wabanaki Two-Spirit Alliance Youth Council

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Language, Culture & History	• Want support in facilitating a generational transfer of knowledge • Want support researching and reconnecting with history	• Currently, we are building relationships with individual Elders and Knowledge Holders in Wabanaki to establish an ongoing intergenerational knowledge transfer, especially through seasonal gatherings we are hosting at W2SA. Eventually, we want these knowledge pathways to be foundational to our work, to provide a system that allows Two Spirit people to step into their roles at every stage of life, whether it be for receiving, utilizing, or providing these gifts of knowledge. It is an L'nu way of being to consider all ages as capable of these roles; Youth can also be teachers to Elders, as much as the reverse is true. • Our youth council has had wider support through W2SA as a parent organization, but would eventually want to have our own youth lead this research and reconnection, either through independent projects or working partnerships.

Organizations Supporting Mi'kmaw Nation - Wabanaki Youth Council

No Updates Received by Publishing Deadline

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Governance	• Need core funding • Need capacity development support ◦ Creation of mentorship opportunities • Youth need a voice that is at the forefront of policy engagement • Need to move away from Tribal Councils and toward true nation rebuilding • Need to ensure that funding is made available at an Indigenous nation-wide level
Health & Social Issues	• Need additional mental health supports, particularly those targeted at male youth • More suicide prevention programming • Need more culturally-appropriate programming
Infrastructure	• Need land and a space that is dedicated to youth/Two-Spirited youth
Citizenship	• Need to reframe “status” and move toward citizenship
Language, Culture & History	• Need support capturing traditional knowledge and transferring that knowledge to youth

Annapolis Valley First Nation

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	- By-laws are not being enforced by RCMP - Have capacity issues with the loss of their legal counsel and band manager - Want support for progress on the child welfare law	- By-laws continue to be an issue - Band Manager hired in January 2025. Accessing external legal counsel as needed. In the process of growing capacity, filling vacancies, and introducing new positions. - No update on child welfare law
Health & Social Issues	- Issue with lateral violence in the community that is creating acute mental stress - Need funding to support off-reserve members - NIHB coverage is inadequate - Need greater mental health supports - Need to ensure there are adequate supports for children aging out of Jordan's Principle	- Implementing mandatory lateral violence training for all Band employees. First session happening on June 26th 2025. Next session will be scheduled for the fall for remaining staff. - Funding support for off-reserve members continues to be an issue - NIHB coverage continues to be an issue - Some services offered in community are no longer available or have been limited by inconsistency and capacity issues in outside service agencies (i.e. home care hours cut significantly, blood collection unreliable).

Annapolis Valley First Nation

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Health & Social Issues (continued)		- Received nominal funding to support mental health, but only would cover part-time. We tried to hire, but found it impossible to hire a psychologist for part-time only hours. Still working to identify an alternate solution. - Jordan's principle continues to be an issue. No movement has occurred to support aging out, but wait times continue to increase and families/staff receive no status updates on applications for support.
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	- Want to see ATR process sped up - Want a resolution to the unilateral closing of the elver industry by DFO - Need safe access to fisheries – physical access but perhaps also Indigenous-specific fishing season?	- Currently working through an ATR which has moved quicker than in the past, but still a years-long process. Remains an issue overall. - No progress on elver issue or issue around safe access to fisheries

Annapolis Valley First Nation

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Justice	• Safety concerns due to deficiencies in level of service from RCMP ◦ Have a squatting issue in band-owned homes • Have concerns around people creating pop-up cannabis stores and the resulting liability to the community	• Squatting members have been removed from homes. Homes have been restored and now allocated to families. • RCMP continue to participate in jurisdictional finger-pointing and fail to react appropriately and timely. No enforcement of Band by-laws occurring. • AVFN did receive support from RCMP in January/February to close some illegal businesses on-reserve. • Illegal tobacco sales continue to be an issue for community safety and is impacting own- source revenue generation.
Citizenship	• Need to move to citizenship to address the second-generation cut-off	• No progress on second-generation cut-off

Bear River First Nation

No Updates Received by Publishing Deadline

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Governance	• Government does not give enough time for measured responses during “consultation” efforts • Funding mechanisms are complicated by red tape and heavy reporting requirements; so many restrictions it becomes inaccessible • Difficult to attract and retain talent because are not able to offer competitive wages • Difficult to deliver programs off-reserve • Communities need to be empowered
Health & Social Issues	• Seeing major decline in NIHB coverage • Mental health a major issue • Looking for support for Mi'kmaq artist emergence program and music therapy with traditional music
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Have a good relationship with industry but upset with DFO for their scallop policy decision that disadvantaged Mi'kmaq fishers • Want more involvement in conservation projects such as Pemsik, a national Marine Conservation Area and in decisions related to ocean health, which is tied to the overall health of fisheries
Infrastructure	• Infrastructure design should include Mi'kmaq input to ensure it is culturally-sensitive • Need funding to build a new administration building – health centre, school and administration office are all required for a healthy community
Citizenship	• Concerns over people falsely claiming Indigeneity • Frustrations over second-generation cut-off
Language, Culture and History	• Need to ensure that governance structure and organizations across Mi'kmaq Nation incorporate traditional knowledge and Mi'kmaq traditional practices, culture, principles and values

Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM)

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	• Need rights to be recognized at the provincial and federal level • Governments need to conduct real and meaningful consultations – looking at a cross-sectoral approach to be real partners in decision-making • Need to look at space for Indigenous content inclusion • Government must support action on the TRC Calls to Action • Remove s.87 of the Indian Act, which requires that goods be delivered to reserve in order to be tax exempt ◦ This would support the long-time call to re-establish a Point-of-Sale taxation scheme • Need to work as a nation to recognize and support community-driven initiatives • Need the RCMP to respect and enforce community by-laws; Crown refuses to act to due removal of Ministerial oversight in Indian Act over by-law creation in 2014 • Need multi-year, stable funding that is flexible and not siloed • We need an opportunity to generate our own tax base; need to get our own fair share • Want support for a Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Nation government structure • Government funding formulas must recognize our responsibility to off-reserve and non-status community members that are claimed by us • Data management – First Nations want control over their own data; there are also hurdles to data-sharing between communities	

Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM)

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Health & Social Issues	• Need support for a nation-wide child welfare law in NS • Need more mental health supports • Need better access to equitable, culturally-safe healthcare • Need reforms to NIHB • Seeing cuts to Jordan's Principle funding and that is negatively affecting our communities • Need to support young men in communities • Mental health, addictions, chronic disease, cancer & extended care (elder support) are main priorities for organization • Need access to treatments that are culturally-appropriate and some should be land-based • Need support and training for crisis response • Dramatic increase in caseloads has seen a need for improved access to culturally-safe providers (systemic racism in healthcare)	SEE HEALTH UPDATE
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Need to discuss reopening and managing the elver fishery • Need to see progress on UNDA Action Plan points related to economic development, Indigenous procurement (Government of Canada has a 5% target), and royalty-revenue sharing. • Need economic development stimulus money for sectors such as gaming. • Government should focus on economic reconciliation by identifying and funding participation opportunities. • Need support in legally and safely accessing the cannabis market in order to create own-sourced revenue	• CMM has implemented a procurement program for our 8 mainland communities, community sessions, participation in the PSIB and the development of a CMM business directory. • Stimulus money should include equity for bidding on major projects.

Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM)

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Economic Development, Lands & Resources (continued)	• Need flexibility and support in creating agreements between First Nations to create nation-to-nation trade agreements with each other • Need to have a bigger say in the forestry operations in NS • Need to confront and resolve environmental racism. • ATR process needs to be streamlined and sped up – Indigenous people need more access to lands to use as they see fit • Have emergency management plans in every community but lack the capacity to ensure they are properly implemented • Want to see movement on recommendations in Senate's report, <u>"Peace on the Water"</u> • Need early consultation on all projects that have a potential impact on Mi'kmaq rights, lands and resources. • Impact Agency of Canada should provide funding to support requisite technical capacity when being consulted on projects	• CMM has revived its MEKS services
Justice	• Lack of respect from police; leads to difficult interactions for community members and leaders with Justice department • Need alternative justice programs that focus on restorative justice principles and are aligned with Mi'kmaq values • Need to look at alternatives to RCMP such as community safety offers • Want to revitalize Mi'kmaw law vs "Indigenizing" Canadian law • Every community should have community safety plans • Legalization of cannabis has led to a rise in organized crime in some communities	

Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM)

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Infrastructure	• Need support with asset management and asset management planning in communities • Need funding for housing • Should have an asset and infrastructure inventory • Need to build housing capacity - policy training, basic home maintenance, training community members to be housing inspectors, etc. • Communities should have alternative evacuation routes but some only have one way in and out • Need O&M funding	• Need support with asset management and asset management (AM) planning in communities ◦ CMM Supporting communities in the development of their AM plans and implementation in three communities and increasing awareness of AM and the benefits to member communities. • Need funding for housing ◦ CMM continuously advocating for funding for member communities. • Should have an asset and infrastructure inventory ◦ CMM is actively compiling asset and infrastructure inventory for member communities. • Need to build housing capacity - policy training, basic home maintenance, training community members to be housing inspectors, etc. ◦ CMM recently hired a housing capacity coordinator and working in partnership with Nova Scotia Building Officials Association for code compliance training. Three CMM community members are taking part in this training.

Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM)

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Infrastructure (continued)		• Communities should have alternative evacuation routes but some only have one way in and out ◦ CMM advocates vigorously at the provincial and federal levels of decision making. ◦ Ongoing risk assessments with CMM member communities. ◦ Maps are developed for communities on provincial and federal roads. • Need O&M funding ◦ Continual advocacy for O&M funding for member communities.
Citizenship	• Need to remove the second-generation cut-off • Need to look at citizenship instead of "status" • First Nations should have control of our own enrolment/citizenship lists • Misrepresenting yourself as Indigenous should be a criminal offense	

Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM)

Content Submission Received

CMM HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PLEASE NOTE: Funding and capacity limitations continue to impact all areas outlined below. The updates provided reflect how CMM is working to address these priorities within existing funding structures and current organizational capacity limitations.

1. Need for Support in Advancing a Nation-Wide Child Welfare Law (Specific to Nova Scotia)

There is some ambiguity in whether the request refers to the implementation of a federal child welfare framework in Nova Scotia or support for broader nation-wide legislation. At present, this file is being led by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs and the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative (Maw-Kleyu'kik Knijannaq, MKK).

CMM awaits further direction from the Board of Directors to determine if and how additional support should be provided beyond the scope of work already being led by these entities.

2. Increased Demand for Mental Health Supports

CMM's Mental Wellness Team has expanded significantly from 4 to 9 staff members to enhance mental health service delivery across the mainland. Grounded in the principle of Etuaptmunk (Two-Eyed Seeing), the team offers flexible, culturally informed care through Cultural Youth Support Workers, Cultural Support Workers, and Case Managers. Clients are supported in choosing their own paths to healing, ensuring services are accessible and community centered.

3. Access to Equitable, Culturally Safe Healthcare

CMM continues to actively advocate for improved access to culturally safe and equitable health services across its member communities. Ongoing efforts include engaging in partnerships, facilitating navigation supports, and amplifying community voices within broader healthcare systems.

4. Reform of the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program

CMM maintains active representation at the NIHB Health Partnership Table to advocate for equitable reforms to the program. The goal is to align NIHB services more closely with those available through mainstream healthcare systems, addressing systemic disparities in access and delivery.

Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM)

Content Submission Received

5. Impacts of Reductions in Jordan's Principle Funding

CMM acknowledges the significant gaps created by Indigenous Services Canada's (ISC) ongoing operational backlog and recent changes. While delays persist, our Jordan's Principle team remains committed to advocating for First Nations children's access to necessary services. We emphasize the importance of submitting clear, detailed documentation from qualified professionals, as outlined in ISC's operational bulletins, to help expedite application processing and ensure that children's health, education, and social needs are met.

6. Need for Enhanced Supports for Young Men in Community

Recognizing the lack of culturally relevant supports for young men, CMM recently hosted a Men's Gathering centered on cultural connection, self-care, and wellbeing. This marks the beginning of a focused effort to develop meaningful programming tailored to the needs of young men. Future plans include expanding youth group initiatives and increasing the visibility of male facilitators to promote engagement and participation.

7. Organizational Priorities: Mental Health, Addictions, Chronic Disease, Cancer Care, and Elder Supports

These areas remain key priorities for CMM. The Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI) program has resumed full operations, with strong collaboration from the Mental Wellness Team to provide wraparound education, prevention, and support services related to mental health, addictions, and chronic disease management.

Elders are always present at retreats and during ceremony. Health can take an active effort to include Elders on a more regular basis.

8. Access to Culturally Appropriate and Land-Based Treatment Services

While CMM does not operate addictions treatment centres, our Mental Wellness Team provides comprehensive referral services and helps clients access the most suitable federally funded treatment programs. We are committed to integrating land-based activities into programming and continue to advocate for the development of treatment centres that are both culturally grounded and geographically accessible.

9. Crisis Response Training and Support

CMM remains focused on community capacity building in crisis response. Staff and community members continue to receive training in ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) and other life promotion strategies. Additionally, CMM offers culturally safe comfort spaces and responsive supports during times of crisis.

Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM)

Content Submission Received

10. Concerns Regarding “Aging Out” of Jordan’s Principle

CMM’s Jordan’s Principle Service Coordination Team actively assists families in preparing for transitions beyond eligibility age. This includes connecting families to appropriate services such as Post-Majority Support programs and community-based resources. Examples of supports include:

- **Post Majority Supports (Ages 19–26):**

[ISC Info](#)

Toolkits: sefpn-fncfs@sac-isc.gc.ca

- **PATH Program (Ages 19–24):**

[Nova Scotia PATH Program](#)

- **Inclusion Nova Scotia:**

inclusionns.ca

- **Autism Nova Scotia:**

autismnovascotia.ca

- **Nova Scotia Community Services:**

novascotia.ca/coms/families

11. Increasing Caseloads and Demand for Culturally Safe Providers

Caseloads across all CMM Health Services continue to rise, reflecting increased demand for culturally safe navigation and support. This trend underscores the urgent need for expanded staffing and system-wide efforts to address systemic racism and service gaps within provincial healthcare.

Eskasoni First Nation

No Updates Received by Publishing Deadline

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Governance	• Looking at child welfare from a sovereignty perspective • Our organizations are inadequately funded • Governance/Human Resources within band are big issues – bands are underfunded, and this leads to capacity issues • Police enforcement of by-laws a major issue
Health & Social Issues	• High incident rate autism amongst children • Been using own-source revenue to pay for crisis centre and mental health staff • Need hospital in community because members are facing systemic discrimination/racial profiling and it is leading to fatalities ◦ We support medical travel from own-source revenues ◦ Hospital would also help to alleviate wait times in off-reserve hospitals • Community members at a high risk of diabetes and heart disease • 1300 people are on social and a high number of children are in care due to housing shortages
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Rising costs are affecting own-source revenue • Running out of space and buying land but ATR needs to speed up • Issues around taxation and CPs
Justice	• Lack of by-law enforcement leading to increase in drug dealers, violent people, lateral violence, etc. • Issues with negotiations around a policing agreement – less officers than discussed ◦ Looking at return to hybrid with Mi'kmaq-speaking officers; or return to tribal force ◦ Need more Mi'kmaq in higher ranks, not just constables ◦ Suggested Mi'kmaq constables start training depot • Keeping track of homelessness and human trafficking numbers

Eskasoni First Nation

No Updates Received by Publishing Deadline

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Infrastructure	• Elders care facility is required • Large bureaucratic burden associated with housing dollars • Using own-source revenue to pave roads – need more infrastructure funding to build roads and prep new subdivision • Rushing housing to try and keep kids out of care – over 300 on the waitlist • Funding stalled on the courthouse they are building
Language, Culture & History	• Should be an apology and reparations regarding centralization similar to those for TB and residential schools

Glooscap First Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	• Need support to pursue Mi'kmaq governance including support of the Grand Council • Wants support for Mi'kmaq-led child and youth protection initiatives • Need more holistic and coordinated approach to funding as government departments seem to be working in silos • Need to approach issues as a nation	• “Band support” in federal funding doesn't support chief and council salaries; requires communities to take from OSR to support the work of Council • Sectoral agreements put money into umbrella organizations - the execution, process and governance over these organizations can feel rushed, clunky • Government should support trade between nations • Peace and Friendship Treaty symbolic or law for government? • Wampum (recognition, recitation, and the literal understanding of a legal recognition of Indigenous Law)
Health & Social Issues	• Need more funding for mental health • Need to focus on prevention • Want funding for education programs that would make all levels of government more appealing and accessible to youth • Want progress on TRC Calls to Action ◦ Need to address intergenerational trauma from residential schools ◦ Need to work on accommodations in schools for cultural practices ◦ Need to address high rates of absenteeism and root causes • Jordans Principle – issues with implementation and eligibility guidelines • High incidence rates of diabetes and other chronic diseases • There are addictions issues and high rates of fetal alcohol syndrome	• Do get money for prevention, but people are falling through the cracks • JP changes have major impact on our members - these reductions are not sustainable • We are willing to pilot various projects, but we need funding
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Need federal support to help “kickstart” more economic development	• No funding for land acquisition that can then be used for development and generate much-needed OSR • Education is key to building a strong workforce - needs more investment • Federal and Provincial Procurement system is broken, no viable solution exists, who is prioritizing this - e.g. can't use our own construction company for capital projects

Glooscap First Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Justice		- Relationship with RCMP is broken; pay \$8,000/mo, but they are not meeting promised service levels - Security and enforcement of by-laws are not in any ISC funding line - Organized crime becoming a major issue - Need Community based restorative Justice processes and funding to support - Need funding for Community Safety and Guardians of Justice, Peace and Communal Laws
Infrastructure	- Need funding for housing – capital & O&M - Need housing and infrastructure funding to flow directly to First Nations or to have a more coordinated approach by First Nations organizations that receive infrastructure funding - Wants to explore more supportive housing and affordable rental options for L'nu living off-reserve	- Need additional funding for housing - Current funding formula is a major restriction - Need support for forest fire mitigation as part of DMAP funding - ISC checkbox funding system has 5-year funding horizons for projects, but we are on a 2-year election cycle; means nothing getting executed - Need more energy sovereignty, especially in face of NS Power major rate hikes - Specific claims funding cuts are negatively affecting us - Need support for proactive preparation of the next industrial revolution which looks to be a Cyber Physical System societal change - i.e. Protection of Indigenous IP, data sovereignty, Indigenous Knowledge is proprietary knowledge of communities, “smart” communities, etc.
Citizenship	- Important for Mi'kmaq to be able to determine who is Mi'kmaq as close to 60% in the community are considered “non-status” - Second-generation cut-off rules must be removed	Second-generation cut-off is an urgent issue in Glooscap
Language, Culture & History	Need more support for Indigenous language instruction, particularly for young learners	Receiving adequate funding through MK

Kwilmu'kw Mawklusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO)

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	• Working at the main consultation table to ensure implementation of UNDA – seems to be words, not action • Federal mandates and policies are limiting • Fiscal negotiations impose a federal formula – not really a negotiation; doing the same thing with social assistance • Constantly needing to justify our own workplans to Government • Funding restrictions that force KMKNO to change the way it operates is resulting in things like fewer Assembly meetings • Government doesn't pay for elders or knowledge keepers to participate in KMKNO meetings or events • No operational support available – those line items are always denied and removed • Federal funding means KMKNO is mandated to follow same health and safety rules that federal organizations are bound to • Funding deficits make it difficult to move on other files of importance and interest to the Chiefs such as point-of-sale • There is uncertainty in funding for staff and programs • Government does not respect the established consultation processes and continues to take a paternalistic approach to Mi'kmaq • Concerned with UNDRIP consultation funding – last year, references to UNDRIP were a part of every section of the workplan, this year Canada wanted it just in the preamble ◦ E.g. Fisheries is an UNDA action item but not a line item	• UNDA is being worked into each file; this is still an uphill battle • The Assembly has mandated our team to discuss a sectoral arrangement on Justice issues. Policing is one area of great interest and priority of the Mi'kmaq Leadership. These discussions are just in the starting stages. • There is a misunderstanding of the need of the Mi'kmaq community and how we need to do things it does not align with the government mandates. The reporting has decreased so that is helpful. • The funding has just changed for this fiscal year for all tables across Canada. It will add some flexibility to be able to do the operations. However there is no clarity on several funding items. The big gaps lie in the specific topic funding. • The new funding might allow us to make changes in the pay for elders and knowledge keepers, but even halfway into this fiscal year we do not have the detail criteria on this on.

Kwilmu'kw Mawklusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO)

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance (continued)	• No clear communication of available funding streams and, when organizations do learn of these streams, they are denied with no explanation – quite an involved process to apply, should warrant an explanation – and decisions are rendered months after the close of the application process • No standardization across departments on how they will implement the items listed under the UNDA Action Plan • Assembly should receive core funding as it is a governance body – need own emails, shared calendar, ability to compensate Chiefs for their time, etc. • Funding constraints disadvantage KMKNO as a consultation body as they are unable to conduct the research necessary to build their positions • Canada does not hold themselves to the same standards they hold Indigenous organizations • Canada does not respect the established governance structure of the Mi'kmaq and continues to employ “divide and conquer” tactics • Dedicated, long-term funding helps to build capacity and conduct succession planning • Approaching self-government on a sector-by-sector basis	• There is no support, unless we apply for tribal council or service delivery dollars. • Funding is a challenge. I believe they recognize that there are funding challenges both in the assessment of the tables and in the approvals and release of funding. Canada changes the process quite often without meaningful discussions. And it leaves all the tables struggling to meet the new standards. • Right now, we are exploring a self-government arrangement. This is in the very very early stages and is on the work plan. Until then right now its done sector by sector.

Kwilmu'kw Mawklusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO)

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Management and care of Mi'kmaq archaeology should be a Mi'kmaq decision • Canada needs to fund more research and conservation initiatives • Parks and protected areas should be co-managed by the government and Mi'kmaq • DFO remains amongst the most egregious of government departments in terms of not taking a rights-based approach to policy and decision-making and perpetuating actions that undermine the inherent and Treaty rights of Mi'kmaq	• This one is a mix between the province and the federal government. We have "laws or protocols" we ask the proponent or government to respect, for example the "the Human Remains Protocol" and other protocols we assert. The federal government in consultation looks to the province in the Archaeology and cultural and heritage decision. • Additional funding is required in this area, particularly to support the negotiation and consultation process. Remember we do things from the grassroots; they help to inform the information that is needed and relied on at the tables.
Citizenship	• Working on a citizenship code – looking to update demographic estimates • Mi'kmaq should be able to determine who is Mi'kmaq – has already been done to identify Mi'kmaq harvesters	• This is a priority area. We are working on this internally. However, this is one that does not have adequate funding.
Language, Culture & History	• Need more education amongst young Mi'kmaq about traditional activities and outdoor activities such as hunting and gathering • Need to nationally recognize and celebrate Indigenous places and history	• It is very important that you do not lump everything into one box or organization. We all need to support each other through an internal governance structure.

Mawita'mk Society

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	- No core funding – only receive per diems - Seeking funding for board governance – policies must be redone so that on par with other provincial houses - No consultation done on “the remedy” - ISC provides per diems that are almost 50% less than provincial rates (\$200/day vs \$300/day) - Lack of funding means staff paid far less than provincial counterparts - Need funding to begin expanding capacity – aging population means could be increased demands/pressures in next 10-15 years	- Lack of core funding is still an issue. - No licensing/inspections with change resulting from the remedy; placements are on hold. - ISC only pays for what the province approves and the province supports independent living - Sitting at the tripartite table now - ISC not accepting budget submissions for current fiscal due to cutbacks to the assisted living program - Per diems now comparable to the province; want to negotiate a 2% annual economic increase
Health & Social Issues	Seeing more people needing assisted living	No support for people with intellectual disabilities on-reserve
Infrastructure	Communities need housing and infrastructure to support the influx of persons with disabilities that will return to the community following “the remedy”, a NS decision to close institutions and move persons with disabilities back to communities by 2027	- More need for communal living; renovating 4 apartments to make them more accessible. - Need funding for vehicle O&M
Language, Culture & History	- Language and culture are important components of care – e.g. client with dementia who only spoke Mi'kmaq - Looking to support Mi'kmaq with disabilities looking to participate in sports	

Membertou First Nation

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	• Should be adopting principles that enable NS communities to work together as a Nation • Funding is always an issue as it is piecemeal – should have annual transfers to ensure stability and certainty • Canada continues to take a paternalistic and colonial approach to Mi'kmaq relations – operating on “legal fictions” of terra nullius • Cape Breton Police not enforcing our laws (e.g. banishment) – undermining Council • Many reports that we have participated in but no action/change	• Cape Breton Police have expressed a commitment to work with us on enforcement of our laws but are restricted by the NS DoJ whose approval is required on such matters.
Health & Social Issues	• Community is facing drug and addiction issues • Community facing mental health issues • Need to supplement social assistance as it is inadequate in supporting those who cannot work	• With respect to addiction issues, we've started to engage the community on solutions and are using our jurisdiction to address some of the criminal element here, such as the development of a "Community Protection Law" which is currently in draft form. This should give the Council greater control over who has access to our community. • With respect to mental health issues, we've started staffing positions dedicated strictly to treatment of mental health and addictions, and are currently planning a residential addiction treatment facility and a sober living facility. (This is also a relevant update to the "Infrastructure" piece further below.)

Membertou First Nation

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• CP rules need to be revisited, allow people to take advantage because they are not subject to the same landlord/tenant agreements with the community • Have money to purchase land but ATR process is slow • Fisheries are slowed by racism, harassment, and sabotage by non-Indigenous fishers; DFO officers are being harassed and so reticent to intervene • Membertou raised the idea of challenging "moderate livelihood" and the question of not being able to regulate their own industries during an Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy consultation session • Should look at potential for tax revenue sharing agreement	
Justice	• Should have an Indigenous Board of Advisors for law enforcement • Would feel better with L'nu Board of Commissioners - would feel like police cared about L'nu • Council signed their latest policing agreement "under duress" • Social workers should accompany police on mental wellness checks so that those in distress are not killed • Want our own police force for day-to-day policing, but done in partnership with regional police through agreement to retain access to specialized units • Community is facing criminal drug elements and human trafficking • MLSN needs more funding as we rely on them to support community members in the criminal justice system	• We hired a Public Safety Community Liaison Officer who will develop a "letter of expectation" outlining our policing priorities. This should shape the MOU addressing Membertou's policing concerns that was committed to us when we signed the policing agreement. • We've also had discussions about a self-administered policing model but learned that Public Safety Canada is generally not receptive to these proposals and that we would be looking at an estimated seven year wait.

Membertou First Nation

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Infrastructure	• Need more addictions treatment centres to ensure people are able to receive immediate support	
Citizenship	• Lots of requests for membership transfers; looking at own citizenship code	
Language, Culture & History	• Funding is needed for more culture and language supports	

Mi'kmaq Kina'matnewey

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	- Frustrated with the splitting of ISC and CIR - Primary relationship is with CIR but program funding is in ISC - Seeing the bureaucracy expand - Seeing timeline and delivery issues within the Education Partnerships Program due to a change in directors - Been waiting on cabinet approval of an agreement on governance and capacity infrastructure dollars; worked on for the past 3 years - Canada still doesn't have systems in place to properly fund jurisdictional agreements - First Nations have different needs than the general population but always compared to province - Feel funding for Indigenous languages is a disappointment – compare \$245M annually with \$4B in French language support - Federal government not adjusting for volume and inflation when providing funding to MK - The organization bears the brunt of holding government to account	- Cabinet approval was received for the agreement on governance and capacity infrastructure dollars - MK has had to take the “watchdog” role; it is always our responsibility to inform Canada what this relationship is.
Health & Social Issues	Questions about the school lunch program and how that will be rolled out	
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	Skills link program – minimum wage going up, funding for program going down	

Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network

No Updates Received by Publishing Deadline

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Justice	• No core-funding, everything is project-based • Funding shortfall creates access to justice issues • The Indigenous Justice Strategy is stalled • No funding for Bail Release Program • Need more customary law workers • Victim services delayed in reaching out to us, citing delays • Our victim support workers being treated as less than by other victim support/social workers • Want to pilot justice centres similar to those in BC • Core-funding ask of \$400K per annum

Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre

No Updates Received by Publishing Deadline

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Governance	• Need long-term support for programming as pilot-projects/one-offs do more harm than good • Child welfare law is important but it can't leave out urban/off-reserve Mi'kmaq children • Not seeing action on UNDA, TRC, and/or MMIWG • Core funding needs to keep up with inflation • Clients facing racism in housing market, education, health, etc. • Should be spending money to build capacity and infrastructure in communities rather than buying houses to institutionalize our youth
Health & Social Issues	• Jordan's Principle continues to be a major concern; leads to province not paying for things they should and putting it onto the federal government to pay instead using JP ◦ E.g. – schools using JP to fund educational support workers where the province should be paying for them • Need more accountability of how money for Indigenous Early Childhood Education programs is being spent, especially in urban and off-reserve areas ◦ We continue to wait for funds ◦ Need to ensure that it includes cultural component, as that is a key piece • Need to invest in wraparound services for addictions, mental health and rehabilitation • Need more investment in the medical centre • Need more mental health supports – for clients and Friendship Centre staff • Need more addictions treatment/detox centres • Domestic violence is at an all-time high • Elders and seniors need more support
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• This region skipped and received no funding through the Youth Employment and Strategic Skills Program

Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre

No Updates Received by Publishing Deadline

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Justice	• Youth being released into shelters – that exposes them to potential trafficking, addictions, etc. • Need long-term funding for MLSN – the justice system doesn't work for Mi'kmaq • Incongruous support of Mi'kmaq vs other demographics
Infrastructure	• Housing gaps remain across the housing spectrum • Need more investment in urban housing • Paying a lot in insurance/liability
Citizenship	• Seeing a lot of people falsely claiming Indigeneity • Need support for development of citizenship code • Looking at creating co-op housing program targeted at urban needs • Seeing effects of second-generation cut-off
Language, Culture & History	• Language and culture support are important because these are critical to Mi'kmaq sense of identity

Millbrook First Nation

Content Submission Received - No Progress Notes

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Governance	• Need to eliminate onerous and burdensome policies such as NFLD members having to register vehicles in Conne River • Should be able to provide tax-free gas to Mi'kmaq • Need point-of-sale reinstated • Indigenous leadership should be recognized as a level of government and not just a "value component" • RCMP not enforcing by-laws – e.g. community has banned over 30 "undesirable" people from Millbrook
Health & Social Issues	• Need funding to continue to support off-reserve members • Need support advancing a Mi'kmaq Nation law on child welfare
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• ATR needs to be sped up • DFO needs to incorporate Mi'kmaq input into their decisions instead of presenting decisions as a fait accompli • DFO is not operating in good faith nor do they take a rights-based approach to discussions; should we consider switching from DFO to CIR? • Looking for more support in mitigating climate change
Justice	• Need support for Mi'kmaq justice workers – have people pleading guilty because there is no proper guidance • Need to fund restorative justice programming/alternatives to jail • Want support for a treatment/rehabilitation facility for low-risk First Nations offenders who would be better served being rehabilitated in their home community in a space run by First Nations • Have safety concerns with people squatting in houses
Infrastructure	• Need support for critical infrastructure such as water lines, roads, etc. • Need support for community infrastructure • Need support to repair infrastructure being damaged by storms, the severity, of which, is being caused by climate change
Citizenship	• Calling for the elimination of second-generation cut-off and the establishment of membership codes by Mi'kmaq

Nova Scotia Indigenous Tourism Enterprise Network

No Updates Received by Publishing Deadline

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Governance	• Need core funding – limited by lack of capacity and current volunteer nature of the organization • Canada needs to support regions directly instead of just flowing money through the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC) and other organizations • Lack of funding also limits the ability of NSITEN to engage in partnerships with interested stakeholders as they must be judicious in how they allocate their limited resources • Need a special table to discuss funding, training and how to incorporate culture into tourism • Government needs a specific Indigenous Tourism Investment Plan – sent in multi-year funding needs to ISC and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency • Government allocations to the regions is based on a formula that doesn't take into account the barriers faced by artisans and producers • Need more information sharing about how government funding is being spent in the region
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Important to focus on “cultural tourism” as opposed to simply eco-tourism; having these discussions with ISC • Need to support communities in the development of strategies to enhance visitor experience • Should be the lead on authenticity guidelines for Indigenous crafts and products due to work with all thirteen communities and NSITEN's direct connection to craftspeople and producers; there is support from the province for this • Need support for cross-cultural training • Need Mi'kmaq working in Visitor Information Centres
Infrastructure	• Infrastructure in communities required to accommodate the influx of visitors should the community establish/grow a tourism industry
Language, Culture & History	• Working on developing protocols for structure of cultural events • Support for cultural events also facilitates intergenerational traditional knowledge transfer and is another way to help education young Mi'kmaq about their language and culture

Nova Scotia Native Women's Association (NSNWA)

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	- Require more core funding for operations – staff are being funded year-to-year - Core funding currently received only covers 2 salaries and has never been increased - Limitations placed on funding leave major service gaps such as those living in subsidized housing - Need to reframe eligibility requirements – cannot continue basing funding on income testing - Government limitations change our projects so that they're different from the original idea - Federal funding has no flexibility – it does not allow NSNWA to help people living in subsidized housing nor does it allow them to operate on-reserve - Need to build capacity within the organization – particular need in areas of strategic planning, research and proposal writing - Need long-term, stable funding to help build momentum with programming - No money for proper training - Need funding for administrative support - Federal funding imposes heavy and burdensome reporting requirements	- The NSNWA receives funding now up to 2027 from the National Action Plan which will help with operations and programming of the NSNWA, we have had an increase in funding from the MMIWG and inclusion of Men and boys. - There have been some dollars made available for training and professional development.
Health & Social Issues	Questions about the school lunch program and how that will be rolled out	
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	Skills link program – minimum wage going up, funding for program going down	

Nova Scotia Native Women's Association (NSNWA)

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Health & Social Issues	- Workers facing mental health issues due to burnout and the nature of their jobs - Clients are facing mental health and addictions issues - Health and midwifery programs are limited by funding - Need support for men and boys in communities - Elder support programs must be restructured to respond to identified gaps - Need more supports for basic necessities such as food security and utilities - Shelters in urban centers expose women to triggers, addiction issues, sexualized violence and racism - Mental health and addictions are major issues facing clients - Need support to hire a Nurse Practitioner – hard to get any kind of doctor/medical support for clients - Need to redefine “homelessness” to capture “hidden homelessness” – could increase numbers by a factor of 3 - Need more culturally-sensitive medical professionals - Seen steady increase in family violence since COVID - Poverty reduction is a key priority - No travel support for clients - Preventative mental health programming is important; can't just be reactive	- There has been an increase in funding around homelessness and food security but as always never enough. The demand is growing faster than supply. The organization is inclusive in MMIWG to include men and boys, the JPC now offers a men and boys program. - Still looking for health/medical for onsite for clients.
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	- Need access to land and water for programming - Want say in design of parks and conservation areas to ensure it responds to the needs of their clients - Need land codes to address fallout from matrimonial law	

Nova Scotia Native Women's Association (NSNWA)

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Justice	• MLSN needs to have their bail program funded • Support bringing culture into jails to make them more culturally-sensitive spaces in order to help with healing/rehabilitation • Money to combat sex/human trafficking is limited • Need more support for s.81 housing – people ready for release, but can't be without culturally-appropriate program to be released into	• Section 81 housing has a promising start. Talks have started and research being done. • More focus is being put on Human Trafficking and Gender based violence. Knowledge sharing workshops have been done for HT and Domestic violence.
Infrastructure	• Need a variety of housing options and housing types to fill gaps in the housing spectrum – CMHC programs have been over subscribed • Need more women's shelters • Need support for tiny homes project • Federal government's housing measures in the budget will be inaccessible for many of our clients • Need more emergency housing to protect against weather events • Need more access to capital funding • Need O&M funding for existing housing units	
Citizenship	• Major issue to women – C-31 and S-3 are pieces of legislation that restored "status" wrongfully taken from them, but no housing to return to and difficult to reintegrate into communities	

Nova Scotia Native Women's Association (NSNWA)

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Language, Culture and History	• Need support for more culture and language programs • Need support for programs that teach traditional skills and help women become more self sufficient (e.g. successful butchery program) • Need funding for land-based programming	• MMIWG is doing land-based healing funded under DOJ, this will be over the next 4 years. The project will include MMIWG2S+MB

Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	- We need to identify and clarify the difference between individual rights and communal rights – are there limits to collective rights if it impacts the rights of the individual? - RCMP not enforcing by-laws including the list of banned individuals from the community - Would be helpful for communities to be able to share who is banned where - Community cannot access provincial programming in health, education, justice and so forth because reserve land is considered federal Crown land - Losing capacity because cannot compete on salaries	- Federal government doesn't understand our treaties - It's important that we hold our own people accountable on things like fisheries - for example: elvers - We need to be at the same level as the federal government - Looking at creative ways to enforce by-laws
Health & Social Issues	- Facing addictions and mental health issues - Need faster access to culturally-appropriate treatment centres - Need to build more Mi'kmaw capacity in the healthcare field - There is a little-talked about HIV/AIDS issue facing communities - Need more child welfare supports - High incident of heart disease, diabetes, psychosis, depression, anxiety and other chronic diseases/conditions - The average life expectancy is close to 54 years - Some life-saving devices such as insulin pumps are not available due to them not being covered by NIHB – this needs to change - Youth should be placed in supportive homes with Mi'kmaw values to prevent them from getting hooked on drugs - Parents need hands-on support as they are struggling with intergenerational trauma	- Just hired a mental health clinician (part-time) to help navigate the health system - Tajikeimik helping us to get funding for programs like off-reserve home care that is being coordinated with communities - There has been progress on wage comparability - Have youth not doing well; losing people to suicide - RCMP don't know how to support L'nu dealing with trauma - Need to look at healing holistically and draw from crime prevention, Indigenous health equity fund, land-based healing funding, etc. for a culturally-appropriate healing centre such as the one in Keskepegiag - Our health outcomes always 2-11x higher than the rest of NS

Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Elver fishery – not enough consultation before the decision to close the fishery was made • Decisions affecting resources should incorporate traditional knowledge • Food security is in jeopardy because the government tends to favour industry in its decisions and decision-making process	• Difficult because DFO has 100% control and authority over the harbour • Chronic effects of underfunding are evident
Justice	• Need to support harm reduction and rehabilitation centres – focus on restorative justice • Struggling with squatting and drug users in the community due to an inability to evict or enforce by-laws	• RCMP need more training on cultural considerations and need communities working closely with detachments
Infrastructure	• Need more housing but smaller communities are disadvantaged in federal funding programs such as the Rapid Housing Initiative, which favours those who are able to put in more up-front capital • The loss of stock due to preventable house fires has put an additional strain on the housing need • Facing high insurance rates that are hard to afford	• Want a 2-day housing meeting with CMHC, FNMHF, etc.
Citizenship	• “Pretendians” – people taking spaces away from our people; should not allow people to self-identify, they should be able to prove their connection to the community • Second-generation cut-off leading to the children of community members not having status • Need to move forward on citizenship • How is the Native Council of Nova Scotia verifying claims of Indigeneity? • C-3 (the creation of Qalipu) added 64 additional members to the community, with no new funding	• Need all communities to come together to stack funding so that we can build a centre and heal; we never got to heal from the tragedies we've encountered • Need cultural healing practices to grieve, should be a regular occurrence

Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Language, Culture & History	• Need to reopen the settlement process for the Federal Indian Day School Class Action as many in the community were missed • Programs that encourage a sense of identity – such as MK – creates pride, which, in turn, creates healing • Need funding support for more community gatherings • Need programs that teach the general public more about who the Mi'kmaq are	

Pictou Landing First Nation

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	• RCMP won't enforce our by-laws • Want funding for a by-law officer because the onus has been on Chief and Council to enforce • Discussion about how Chief and Council can work with the Grand Council • Need support for on and off-reserve community members	• RCMP won't enforce bans but will standby when the Chief delivers them.
Health & Social Issues	• Community faces struggles with addictions and mental health concerns • Need more access to culturally-appropriate treatment centres • Need more programming and supports for young men	• Our mental health team is expanding, the health centre is in the process of creating bigger space for them.
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Want to engage more in moderate livelihood fishing • Have faced severe environmental racism ◦ Pushing hard to have contaminated sites remediated but facing delays and roadblocks • Want more say over projects in and around our land as well as a more formal role in project review and authorization • Taking a regional approach to economic development so as not to compete with other communities	• When it comes to environmental racism, there have been delays in our remediation process. But, also with the recent lift of the uranium ban without Mi'kmaw consultation was a slap in the face. • When it comes to building relationships with the other towns in the county, Chief has been fairly friendly and accommodating. However, communities are getting funding for tourism projects to have Mi'kmaw inclusion but none of the monies flow to Mi'kmaq. ◦ E.g. - the ship hector project and New Glasgow's 150th.

Pictou Landing First Nation

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Justice	• Want own policing/security force • RCMP not responding appropriately to mental health crises – their first instinct is shoot • Need more restorative justice programs	• We are still in dire need of funds for our own security and bylaw enforcement officers, to include proper training.
Infrastructure	• Need more housing	
Citizenship	• Need to get rid of second-generation cut-off	
Language, Culture & History	• Want support to preserve Mi'kmaq culture, traditional knowledge & history • Day school class action – there were people missed	• Issue with veterans accessing the lands that they were promised when returning home

Potlotek First Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	• Should be sharing information with other communities • Exploring issues of resource-revenue and tax-revenue sharing agreements • Want reinstatement of Point-of-Sale • Government should treat First Nation communities on par with municipalities • There are problems with the Mi'kmaq consultation process – it's not being followed/we're not being included from the start	• Enforcement of by-laws are a big issue ◦ Need to update the community tri-partite agreement with the RCMP ◦ Consultative community group being established - call out to community members with expertise in public safety ◦ Also working with the Department of Justice on the by-law issue
Health & Social Issues	• Need more mental health supports • Need more youth supports • Using own-source revenue to support non-status members • Teachers on reserve not paid the same as those off-reserve • Need centre with support for people with mental health issues/people in distress • Want to take over delivery of NIHB services • Biggest need = educational psychologists to support kids • Need more programming for youth to keep them occupied – they are starting drugs/vaping too young	• Diabetes is prevalent; should have dialysis in each community ◦ Dialysis could be offered to support non-Indigenous people in surrounding communities • Need access to preventative healthcare, more nutritious food • Need more support for health needs of adults • Need support for EAs and teachers; hurting from JP cuts

Potlotek First Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Want to have own gravel pit and own public works centre with other communities • Need to expedite ATRs – increased access to land will unlock economic development opportunities • Need more traps; still facing lots of animosity • Looking to access funding to support participation in renewable energy projects	• Over last couple of months, have seen a lot of progress: ◦ 53% interest of \$13M solar project ◦ Small acquisitions such as a greenhouse in St. Peters (\$400,000/annum output) and a building in Port Hawkesbury ◦ Initiatives in fishery (elvers) • Looking at a potential modular housing project • One of the biggest stumbling blocks = accessing the Indigenous Land Guarantee Program - advocated to lower the \$20M minimum limit because translates to \$100M deals and does not support deals below that threshold • Looking at potentially making community lands fee simple like some other First Nations across the country so that it can be leveraged for equity/monetized ◦ Looking at generating generational wealth • Seeking a BCR for land acquisitions and doing research on additional land claims

Potlotek First Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Infrastructure	• Hard to build houses because on clay • Infrastructure a major priority • Have housing waitlist of 200 – lots of community members want to move back, including those who go away for school and want to come back when they graduate • Want to build a cultural centre	• Need own gravel quarries • Need to increase OSR in order to access FNFA as OSR would back the loan • Need renewable energy projects to also yield training programs/education in STEM to help with capacity development • Need funding to factor in lot preparation and creation of subdivisions • Looking at creative solutions to build a new youth centre and band office
Citizenship	• Need to address second-generation cut-off	• Chief supports people cut-off through second-generation cut-off out of pocket • There is misinformation within the community about who can confer status
Language, Culture & History	• Need ongoing support from provincial and federal government for maintenance required to support cultural events at Chapel Island including Pentecost and Mission • Looking for funding for Early Childhood Education (Learning Nest) • Need program funding to support land-based teachings • Need additional language supports	• Chapel Island - need other communities to contribute to its maintenance; Mission costs Potlotek between \$50-60K/annum and annual maintenance is about \$200,000 • Archaeology needs to be done throughout NS and should be part of the process before anyone breaks ground • Have language coordinator, but need more mandatory lessons for staff; getting support from Ulnooweg

Sipekne'katik

No Updates Received by Publishing Deadline

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Governance	• Need reintroduction of point-of-sale
Health & Social Issues	• Facing systemic racism in the NS healthcare system • 60% child poverty rate; need income support/poverty reduction programming • Health outcomes so poor, lowered life expectancy; average lifespan in community is 54 years old • High rate of diabetes and need for dialysis
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Because CIR's mandate takes a rights-based approach, they should have a specific program on fishing as recommended by "Peace on the Water" • Still being harassed by DFO officers • ATR process is too slow - too easily held up by third party encumbrances and too much red tape • Need more federal support to enable community to capitalize on economic development opportunities
Justice	• Seeking support for a legal aid initiative • Indigenous people are over-represented in jails, limited access to justice; need culturally-appropriate supports
Infrastructure	• Have shortage of housing • Insurance is a major cost - need our own First Nations insurance • Need a new high school • Need roads, water and sewer to expand the community • Need infrastructure to mitigate damage from natural disasters such as wildfires, flooding, etc.
Citizenship	• New registrations resulting from the passage of a bill that sought to eliminate known sex-based discrimination (S-3) and enfranchisement roll-back (C-38) = estimated 1500+ new registrations incoming; this is a 50% increase with no funding to support the higher numbers ◦ Want control of who gets to be added to the band list; there should be a current connection with the community

Sipekne'katik

No Updates Received by Publishing Deadline

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Citizenship	• New registrations resulting from the passage of a bill that sought to eliminate known sex-based discrimination (S-3) and enfranchisement roll-back (C-38) = estimated 1500+ new registrations incoming; this is a 50% increase with no funding to support the higher numbers ◦ Want control of who gets to be added to the band list; there should be a current connection with the community
Language, Culture & History	• Need a language and cultural centre (\$3M ask)

Ta'n Etli-tpi'tmk

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Health & Social Issues	• Splitting of departments has made issues; Budget 2024 was a disappointment • There is an issue with supporting people with disabilities on reserve – who funds their support and does NS disability law apply on reserve? • Had proposed a pilot where social housing does not impact band funds – treated as separate funding – but ISC has been unresponsive • Base ask for the poverty-reduction program is \$11M – based on the StatsCan Market Basket Measure	• Disability funding for 12 out of 13 bands is now being centrally administered through TEA; communities can use a simple link to determine eligibility and access the funding. ◦ Funding is retroactive to April 1, 2025 for the first payment ◦ Funding has been negotiated to increase when off-reserve amounts are increased to maintain substantive equality • Canada has reopened the negotiation table on s.35 sectoral self-government agreement on social this September

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	• Require “needs-based funding” • Believe that federal government does not ensure that province provides the healthcare it is supposed to • People getting lost in the jurisdictional gap between the federal and provincial governments • Siloed approach to delivering services – should be collaboration between different service providers to ensure everyone receives support • Wants better communication between organizations	• As of April 1, 2025 Tajikeimik has been incorporated under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act with an interim Board. The longer term governance structure has been defined and work is underway to support implementation • Negotiations continue with the Government of Canada and Government of Nova Scotia on an Agreement in Principle. To date, no financial terms for the agreement have been defined that would begin to address needs based funding. • The Canada-Nova Scotia Agreement to Work Together to Improve Health Care for Canadians includes a commitment by the Government of Canada and Government of Nova Scotia to “commit to meaningfully engage and work together with Indigenous partners to support improved access to quality and culturally appropriate health care services.” This commitment has supported investments in several areas of priority for the Mi’kmaq in the first three years of the funding agreement.

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance (continued)		- As the current agreement is scheduled to end on March 31, 2026, we have begun discussions to determine what the renewal process will look like and how the Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia will be engaged. - Through the Strategic Health Partnership Committee that has been established with senior representatives from the provincial health system, we have been engaging in discussions to better inform them about the jurisdictional gaps that exist to support their role in addressing. We have been successful in a request to the province to change the home care policy to enable provincial coverage of nursing services in community. This policy change has now been implemented across the province, ensuring there are no jurisdictional gaps for those living on reserve who require nursing services. Most recently, this has served as a forum to bring together representatives from the federal and provincial governments to discuss shared responsibility for Jordan's Principle.

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance (continued)		• As the current agreement is scheduled to end on March 31, 2026, we have begun discussions to determine what the renewal process will look like and how the Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia will be engaged. • Through established relationships with health system partners, we have been identifying areas for improved collaboration in service delivery and taking steps to address. As part of health transformation we will be undertaking a health services planning process which will further support this work. • We continue to build relationship and work collaboratively with partner organizations to address priorities of community.

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Health & Social Issues	• Jordan's Principle funding is being clawed back due to government overspending • Need supports for children that are aging out of Jordan's Principle at 18 • There are many NIHB shortcomings – requirements for upfront money is problematic; problems with coverage; many medications not covered; dental care an issue; way it interacts with private insurance is discriminatory; etc. • Mental health support is lacking in communities • Every community should have a diabetic educator • No disabilities services; need more programs • Problems with the way healthcare is defined under the Canada Health Act – limiting in First Nations communities • Need more capacity in health services in-community • Need wrap-around services/more long-term support for people suffering from addictions • Need more support for children and youth in general • Need to address the root causes of trauma • High rates of psychosis in communities	• Recent changes to Jordan's Principle have created significant challenges for community and the organizations providing support locally. We have worked with CMM and UNSM to bring this issue forward to the Strategic Health Partnership Committee to create awareness with provincial health system partners. • Tajikeimik, together with CMM, UNSM and Mawita'mk is participating in planning with the Department of Opportunities and Social Development and Indigenous Services Canada regarding implementation of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Remedy. This planning process recognizes the unique needs of Mi'kmaw individuals with disability requiring support and will provide mechanisms to address the needs of some individuals as they age out of Jordan's Principle.

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Health & Social Issues (continued)		- Through the Strategic Health Partnership Committee, we have had focused discussions with provincial health system partners regarding barriers to care associated with NIHB. Mechanisms to address these barriers for individuals requiring home care are being explored. - We have finalized the L'nu'k Mental Wellness and Healing Framework which will guide the path to ensure that L'nu'k (Mi'kmaq) have equitable access to resources and opportunities that support their wellness and healing in culturally relevant, wholistic, and community-centered ways. - As part of health transformation we will be undertaking a health services planning process which will identify and prioritize service and program development and expansion that can be advanced through health transformation.
Justice	- Children facing sex-trafficking - Legalization of cannabis has contributed to normalizing drugs in communities with dispensaries selling more than just cannabis	Tajikeimik is participating in a joint Mental Wellness and Justice conference with KMKNO in June 2025.

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Infrastructure	• Need to build more treatment centres for addictions • Funding for health services but nothing for health infrastructure	• As part of health transformation we will be undertaking a health services planning process which will identify and prioritize service and program development and expansion that can be advanced through health transformation. This will include the development of processes to address infrastructure needs. • As part of the work with the Strategic Health Partnership Committee we have identified the need for better processes to support the engagement of community in infrastructure planning within the provincial health system to ensure culturally safe spaces for care.
Citizenship	• Many children are being born without status	• We recognize the complex issue of citizenship. In our hiring practices and in the work we do (e.g. working with academic institutions regarding designated seats within health professional programs), we use language that is inclusive.

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Language, Culture & History	• Need more health services in Mi'kmaq language • Naming – need to be able to incorporate without needing a French or an English descriptor (Indigenous Languages Act)	• Tajikeimik recognizes language and culture as important to health and wellness. A number of health services/program priorities are supporting increased access to services that include both language and culture. We are also engaged in efforts to encourage more Mi'kmaq community members in exploring careers in health and wellness. • We have identified the lack of health interpretation services in the Mi'kmaq language as a gap in the provincial health system and are working with partners to address. • We continue to believe incorporation in the Mi'kmaq language (without an English or French descriptor is important). Unfortunately, as a key milestone in health transformation we needed to proceed to be incorporated under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act before this issue could be resolved.

Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	• Proposal-based funding models are not conducive to attracting and retaining qualified staff • Creates an over-reliance on consultants when should be focusing on creating capacity within communities • Should be able to have multi-year funding in place • \$500K core funding for tribal councils is woefully inadequate • Funding models impose unfair and burdensome reporting requirements on organizations already facing a capacity deficit • No money to sustain projects long-term • Wage parity is an issue; salaries do not keep up with inflation and are not commensurate to the amount of work done • Was working on matrimonial real property laws, but federal government stopped funding development of laws in 2023 • Development of these laws will cost approximately \$50K/community, but being funded only half that • Technical support a big issue (software, etc.) but getting licenses = a big burden • Data governance is important – Registry information being held by ISC but not being shared back to communities • Need to work with RCMP on enforcing by-laws, particularly those related to banishment • RCMP still question who has authority within a community	

Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Health & Social Issues	• Lack of stable funding has an adverse effect on the mental health and well-being of staff • Kids “aging out” of Jordan’s Principle require a transition coordinator to help them navigate other programs available to them as adults • Delays in getting approvals through Jordan’s Principle • Issues across the board with NIHB – cutbacks with orthodontics being considered “cosmetic”; kids unable to access services despite being a part of the community due to second-generation cut-off	
Justice	• Need to have Mi'kmaq input in policing standards being developed in NS in order to ensure they don't conflict with community emergency management programs • Funding for legal services is currently piecemeal, with organization utilizing a lot of bridge funding ◦ Bail program hasn't yet received money and it's forcing people back to jail	
Infrastructure	• Looking for support of a First Nations Information Governance Centre • Looking to develop a permit process for home renovations – would help limit the liability of the band if people undertake their own home renovations • Wants to build capacity for Mi'kmaq inspectors through a Mi'kmaq inspector program • Wants to increase training opportunities to have more Mi'kmaq red seals • Want to have tenant housing relations officer	• Looking for support of a First Nations Information Governance Centre • Looking to develop a permit process for home renovations – would help limit the liability of the band if people undertake their own home renovations

Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Infrastructure (continued)		• Want to build capacity for Mi'kmaq inspectors through a Mi'kmaq inspector program • Want to increase training opportunities to have more Mi'kmaq red seals • Want to have tenant housing relations officer • Asset management plans are being developed or implemented for each community; the transition to maintenance management has begun • Solid Waste/Land Stewardship. Partnerships between the UNSM, Victoria and Inverness County are going great. A big cleanup of Hunter's Mountain will begin in September. • Erosion Protection – Miniku is entering its next phase of redesign due to the eel grass found in the water; Eskasoni had its first environmental assessment by CBCL behind the police station. The Erosion project in Potlotek is a culture based one and the one in Eskasoni is an infrastructure based one.

Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Infrastructure (continued)		• Solar Energy. The first UNSM solar energy project will be a pilot program for We'koqma'q to determine the suitability of a community building or facility's roof to support solar panels. • Greener Neighborhoods Pilot Program. Awarded Squarebox the tender for an assessment/housing inspection on 220 homes in Potlotek and We'koqmaq to determine the residential homes that are eligible for deep energy retrofits. • Transfer of Services. Engagements are taken place between the UNSM and the member communities to begin facilitating the discussions with ISC to assume control of First Nations assets like housing, emergency management, solid waste, electrical generation, education, fire suppression, roads and bridges. Malagwatch has been identified as an asset which the UNSM's Infrastructure team can provide technical services like grading the roads, mapping out all the culverts, roads, houses and being submitting proposals for solid waste management and erosion protection.

Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Infrastructure (continued)		• Currently, the UNSM has the support of the Grand Council and UNSM Board to begin initial discussions with the municipalities and ISC to provide technical services like developing a land use policy and management plan. • Emergency Services. We are currently working on establishing a mobile incident command center for all special events (summer games, powwows, ball tournaments) to ensure the community and all participants are safe. Working on an Emergency Management Plan for Miniku's yearly gathering. We struggle for advocacy and support - the government doesn't support cultural events like Miniku and Malagwatch because they aren't considered long term or permanent residential areas. We've had to jump through hoops only to discover we can only receive funding for the mobile incident command center's low-cost equipment.

Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Infrastructure (continued)		- Working with the Province on Emergency services (policing, fire and medical). We have also resumed the administration of EverBridge – the alert system. We've created new templates and are working on developing protocol for alerts. - Purchased an Infrastructure truck to provide support for solid waste management and asset mapping. - We will be issuing an RFP for the energy assessments of 15 community buildings (3 per community). The communities will decide which buildings.
Citizenship	- Need to address inequities caused by second-generation cut-off, unclaimed parentage, etc. - Need control of our own membership lists - Need to move to citizenship	
Language, Culture & History	Need federal support to reclaim traditional place names – have support from Mi'kmaq and province to change Kelly's Mountain to a Mi'kmaq name	Some signage has been erected in cooperation with the province this season

Wagmatcook First Nation

No Updates Received by Publishing Deadline

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Governance	• Systemic racism is the root cause of all issues • Police don't respect our by-laws, won't enforce
Health & Social Issues	• Mental health and addictions the result of decades of trauma • More counselling and supports needed • Poverty reduction is a key initiative • Band using own-source revenue to cover needs of "non-status" individuals • NS "remedy" for returning persons with disabilities to communities by 2027 has not considered the requirements of communities to support the needs of these returning members
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• 25 years post Marshall and still no treaty-based fishery – less than 1% are exercising their rights as they're scared to go in the water • Challenging to seek support for new economic opportunities – current structure "pits communities versus communities"
Justice	• Policing a major issue – 6 people killed in the last 2 months during wellness checks • Need to have more Mi'kmaq in police forces but seem to be hidden barriers for community members applying to be police officers
Infrastructure	• Housing is a critical need – have put in a request regarding social housing • Need O&M support – overcrowding and multi-generational housing leading to increased need
Citizenship	• Second generation cut-off going to be an issue in the next 5-10 years • Mi'kmaq should determine who is Mi'kmaq • "Status" vs "non-status" situation created by the government is hurting the sense of identity of children

Wasoqopa'q First Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	- RCMP won't enforce our by-laws; having difficulty evicting members and non-members - There is a better relationship with RCMP in Yarmouth but that is not the same in other communities - Being in a community is a privilege, not a right - Have a hard time being recognized as equal partners and having our rights recognized including the right of Chief and Council to make laws equal to the laws of Canada - View sectoral agreements as pathways to self-government - Reporting requirements for federal funding is burdensome; Wasoqopa'q is significantly behind in its reporting requirements due to capacity restraints - Need better education on Treaty rights - Need cultural training for RCMP and prosecutors	- Known drug dealers are not being properly investigated; drawing in non-band members - Part of a working group convened by CMM to look at by-law enforcement issues - Participating all seeing similar issues - Meet with staff sergeant every two weeks - Continuity issues when RCMP staff change; means having to start from scratch every time - RCMP need to be educated on Treaty rights/receive cultural training
Health & Social Issues	- Struggling with mental health and addictions issues - Don't have capacity to respond to needs of those with severe challenges - Need more culturally-appropriate treatment centres as the closes regional centre is a six-hour drive	- Need specific rehabilitation facilities and services for women - Requirement to be sober before accessing rehab services is a barrier - Need a nursing home - Need support for members with disabilities
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	- ATRs need to be sped up – one request has been ongoing for 32 years due to provincial mining rights in the area - Municipalities should be compelled to consult when they dig and come across archaeological finds - Gaming – growing industry but facing challenges around taxation and remittance with the province	- Concerns over C-5 & impact on duty to consult; currently no incentive for proponents to build a relationship with community - Have a council member leading the Argyle project (tourism) - Waiting on Ministerial signature for ATR - Gaming litigation unresolved - Questions around online gaming - RCMP closed down the Gold River pop-up cannabis shop; approach to cannabis is not consistent across NS

Wasoqopa'q First Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Justice	• Have a serious issue with squatters • Want their own capacity to enforce by-laws • Fears over liability issues associated with pop-up cannabis shops – Canada made a mistake not including First Nations in the law • Need alternatives to incarceration; restorative justice models • Major issues with sex-trafficking in communities – this is related to RCMP refusing to keep certain individuals out • Calling on the government to take action on MMIWG Calls for Justice	• Need support to work on our own laws • Child welfare and sex-trafficking continue to be major concerns in the community • Have successfully resolved two issues around squatters using the courts
Infrastructure	• Continuum of housing is required in communities	
Citizenship	• Need more control over citizenship and rules governing additions to the band lists • Have an issue with “adult adoptions” as people want to receive entitlements such as having school paid for while children born to community members do not have status due to second-generation cut-off	• Second-generation cut-off affecting the community
Language, Culture & History	• Need support connecting to our traditions, crafts and language as it has a major effect on our mental health	• Treaty education is important and lacking throughout all of NS

We'koqma'q First Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	• RCMP do not enforce by-laws • Regional Chief discussed joint effort to develop common policies for all communities on issues like cannabis	• Need our own police force that will honour our by-laws ◦ Need folks helping with wellness checks (maybe special constables/community liaison force)
Health & Social Issues	• Lots of social programming at risk because of loss of revenue • Concerns around addictions and the lack of counseling and treatment options ◦ 6 month wait list sometimes to get a bed in Eskasoni or Sipekne'katik • Have approximately 20 people on dialysis, would be better if we could administer onsite instead of traveling somewhere 40 minutes away • Seeing NIHB not covering services such as dental and items such as glasses – the money to cover those come from our revenues	• Things getting worse, especially under the new administration ◦ 6 month wait list getting longer ◦ NIHB cuts means more cost pressures on community • Need transition houses/safehouses for people trying to deal with addictions ◦ People currently can't access help even if they want to change
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• The elver fishery decision has resulted in the loss of millions of dollars in revenue for the community – only community with a commercial elver fishing license • Looking to diversify economic portfolio to protected from future closures • Money from cannabis shops not going back into the community • CP lands and land code are big issue in community • Access to land an issue – looking for land code template • ATRs need to be sped up	• Clarified that the community holds a communal license operating in the commercial space • Have agreement to fast track ATRs, but still waiting on 2 after a year • Need to develop a land code but can't get one completed fast enough to deal with CP issues • Budget on revenues and unilateral fisheries closure leaves us with a significant deficit

We'koqma'q First Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Justice	• Disconnect between RCMP and the community ◦ Want to create own police officers • External elements are undercutting tobacco and cannabis sales, taking away more revenues from the community	• Need safehouses for those fleeing from domestic violence
Infrastructure	• Housing and infrastructure are key issues • Need support from ISC for wastewater and other critical infrastructure • Considering constructing a men's group home • Need infrastructure to access large island that the community owns	• NS Power costs are too high; need support for energy sovereignty
Citizenship	• Should have control of our own membership lists • Second-generation cut-off complicates program delivery	• Have non-status members that were raised in the community; they will be needing support for services soon ◦ Considering having a vote soon to move to s.10
Language, Culture & History	• Want to rename places and roads that still have their colonial names such as Indian Island and Indian Street (Junction 7)	• Assembly starting on signage; good to see more communities with better signage on the history of places and returning to more traditional place names

New Brunswick - Siknikt - Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Inc. (MTI)

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	• RCMP can't enforce by-laws • Need all levels of government to follow MTI's 8 steps for consultation • Federal and provincial mandates should be co-developed with Mi'kmaq input	
Health & Social Issues	• Need federal support for Mi'kmaq-led long-term care facilities (elder care)	
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Interested in the positive outcomes that could stem from S-268, which would give First Nations the authority to manage their own gaming sites without provincial authorization or coordination • Looking at support for economic drivers especially in light of province pulling tax agreements • Water protection is a top priority • DFO is inhumanely detaining Mi'kmaq fishers • ATRs must speed up and we need significant money to buy the amount of land necessary to enable Mi'kmaq to properly participate in the economy	• Build on tax agreements by advancing discussions around economic reconciliation and revenue-sharing • Concerns expressed related to Bill C-5 and how it may impact the duty to consult process.
Justice	• Issues with RCMP and supports for Mi'kmaq navigating the justice system • Need continued funding and training support for first responders/peacekeepers to help de-escalate situations (alternatives to policing)	• Mi'gmaq have an interest in negotiating an Administration of Justice agreement.
Citizenship	• Second-generation cut-off is creating inequality within communities • Working on Mi'kmaq status protocol	• Working on Mi'gmaq Identity Law

New Brunswick - Sîkniċt - North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	• Facing paternalistic and discriminatory practices by government departments including micro-managing and requiring work consistently be checked by in-house engineers despite NSMTC engineer having higher credentials • Need to move away from proposal-based and per-capita funding models as it places unfair restrictions on First Nations and is inadequate to meet the needs • Facing major capacity restraints in the organization due to year-to-year funding; need core funding to provide stability and certainty to staff • Need to get funding for data governance extended as the equipment required is very expensive • First Nation people count toward equalization payment formula, but are not seeing the money so federal government is paying twice • A lot of programs are unfairly downloaded with no additional dollars for capacity • Federal government must include legal and communications support in contribution agreements	• RE: paternalistic and discriminatory practices by government departments: There are some department changes in the works but there has been no formal update from ISC. • RE: proposal-based and per-capita funding models: This is not any better, in fact it has been worse due to the election and programs waiting for funding approvals.
Health & Social Issues	• Suicide a major issue in communities • Need wraparound services for youth • Need support for long-term care • People are aging out of Jordan's Principle with no other supports in place • Jordan's Principle is not being fully implemented – timelines for approvals and denials are unreasonable	

New Brunswick - Sîkniċt - North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Health & Social Issues (continued)	• Need unified stance from leadership to get information shared – schools are refusing to collaborate or co-develop information sharing protocols regarding First Nation children • Systemic racism in schools	
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Still encountering issues related to moderate livelihood 25 years post Marshall. • Pushing for sole access to stripe bass • Calling for the return of Point-of-Sale • Discussion about concerns regarding C-61 (First Nations Drinking Water) • Not seeing clean energy announcements in New Brunswick – potential for wind or solar projects but would require provincial and federal governments to be onside	• Respect of OCAP principles by Government ◦ Is there a requirement in place for government employees to build their capacity through training? Because we should have the same opportunities • The work is beginning from scratch on C-61 since the call of the election. C-61 died on the order paper and we are reviewing possible amendments and ideas for regulations moving forward. If a new bill is introduced there needs to be a funding agreement tied to all of the work and commitment from Canada to pay actual costs

New Brunswick - Siksikt - North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Infrastructure	• Changes to CMHC policy on home renovations would see First Nation housing departments take on home inspections in-house; requires a lot of technical expertise and not a lot of time to build up that capacity; not a funded position • Want support from Canada to develop First Nations building codes • No money for O&M - of 260 homes in Eel Ground, at least 100 in need of major renovations • Housing demand outpaces capacity and inflation has made building housing difficult	
Citizenship	• Membership is an issue as well as the second-generation cut-off	

Newfoundland - Ktaqmkuk - Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	• Asked - can we facilitate the settlement of a land claim for Flat Bay? • Wants better options for the registry of vehicles as First Nations currently need to go to Conn River	• Revenue Canada contends that vehicles must be delivered to a reserve. As an Indian Act Band, Qalipu should be able to register vehicles at their office locations. • Conne River is 5.5 hours drive from Corner Brook. The total trip time is 11 hours and vehicle owners pay the selling car dealer \$1,000 to get the car to Conne and pay the additional cost of fuel.
Health & Social Issues	• Called for more funding for women's initiatives	• In 2024-25, the Office of the Regional Chief received \$300,000 from the AFN to hire a Women's Initiatives Coordinator and conduct a women's leadership program. The work has been completed, and the program was successful. Unfortunately, the program has not been extended. We need to continue with the important women's initiatives work.

Newfoundland - Ktaqmkuk - Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Wants to revisit the redfish quota • Wants more support for the seal hunt and seal products • Wants fishing access for Qalipu members • Called for federal government to speed up ATR process	• Redfish is not yet commercially viable, but any conversations must include Newfoundland First Nations. • Seals and seal products have shown to be a great opportunity for our communities. Qalipu has made inroads with the launch of its WASPU brand of seal oil capsules. However, there are opportunities in Europe and elsewhere where markets can be expanded. • Fishing access for Qalipu members has seen many discussions at DFO and ISC. We still wait for a response to the proposal Qalipu made to Government a few years ago. We merely want to enjoy the benefit that other First Nations have. • The ATR process is long for all communities. In many cases, the FN owns the land on which the ATR is being requested. Maybe it's time to turn the ATR process over the FN's to be managed by a FN body established for that purpose. Some communities are waiting more that 20 years for ATR status. Complaints continue to be brought to the AFN.

Newfoundland - Ktaqmkuk - Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Infrastructure	- Needs housing support - Needs support for transitional housing	- There are 100,000 new housing units needed for FN across Canada. The Atlantic Region requires 13,000 units out of the total current requirement. New units and housing repair programs are in demand. Closing the infrastructure gap in Canada requires a \$349.2 billion investment by 2030. - By 2030, the gap will widen further. Housing is not just a First Nations issue, it is a Canada issue. In Newfoundland, funds are scarce. Also, transitional housing projects are needed. The Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network recently opened a transition house for women in Stephenville, NL. We need such facilities in other areas of our province.

Newfoundland - Ktaqmkuk - Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Citizenship	Wants control over enrollment devolved to First Nations directly	- The Qalipu enrolment process has provided FN Status for approximately 25,500 members. Despite such numbers, some have been left out or denied. The joint committee of ISC and FNI/Qalipu began an initiative to recover status for Military personnel and RCMP in December 2018. Approximately 800 military and RCMP plus their children have been identified to regain membership in Qalipu after having lost status in August, 2018. We are yet to bring one from this group back into Qalipu. These groups deserve better treatment and by now, should have regained status. - Eventually, the First Nations, Indian Act Bands should be allowed to determine their membership. This is supported by UNDRIP.

Newfoundland - Ktaqmkuk - Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell

Content Submission Received

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Language, Culture & History	Wants more support for language revival	Some communities have made significant gains regarding language revival as we will soon have a few fluent speakers of the Mi'kmaq language. This applies particularly to the community of Flat Bay. The office of the Regional Chief has been working with and supporting communities in securing funds to keep programs moving forward. Having adequate funding is a struggle. During our time of Reconciliation, we need to focus on language by having Federal and Provincial funding support. A few years ago, when John Horgan was Premier of BC, the Provincial Government provided \$50,000,000 for Indigenous language support. Newfoundland continues to do little and Federal programs are insufficient and funds not readily available.

Newfoundland - Ktaqmkuk - Flat Bay

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	- Wants recognition as a self-governing First Nation - Wants to be included at more provincial and federal tables	- Not seeing as much progress as we would like - No core funding - everything is proposal driven - Feel unsupported by Qalipu and Mawipukek
Health & Social Issues	- Advocated for additional support for youth on addictions, lateral violence, etc. - Called for an increase in funding for women's issues	- Have programs supporting non-status members as well - Food insecurity major issue - JP cuts are hurting our children - Need parenting support; better access to healthcare professionals
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	Pitched a Total Allowable Catch similar to that given other countries	\$30K for specific claims research was clawed back by ISC
Justice	- Needs federal funding for alternative/restorative justice measures - Called for the establishment of an ombudsperson for each province to help educate and advocate for Indigenous women - Discussed the need for funding to repatriate bodies of victims - Needs wrap-around services to support victims' families	- Created transitional housing for those fleeing domestic violence - Had pilot for restorative justice program that was very successful, but it wasn't renewed - New policing bill doesn't let us access funding - Spoke with RCMP to get an Indigenous liaison - getting one for half the province
Infrastructure	- Wants infrastructure support for a Flat Bay recreation centre, transitional housing, O&M funding, and capacity development money - Wants culturally sensitive addictions treatment centres with one on the west coast and one in the central part of the region	- Need road into community properly maintained as it is the only point of egress - Building a 25-plex to support 25 more families - Want additional addictions treatment centres
Language, Culture & History	Needs capacity to capture elder/traditional knowledge	Need to own data derived from our lands

Newfoundland - Ktaqmkuk - Glenwood First Nation

Content Submission Received - No Progress Notes

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Governance	• Wants a larger share of housing and program dollars to flow directly from the federal government to their community • Needs capacity development support so that youth can help with grant proposal writing
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Looking for federal support to establish new revenue generators such as a means to participate in the ecotourism industry
Infrastructure	• Need more housing support • Wants a cultural centre to host workshops and language courses
Language, Culture & History	• More money to support traditional arts and craft activities

Newfoundland - Ktaqmkuk - Miawpukek First Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Covernance	Wants a renegotiated new fiscal relationship grant that provides the same flexibility but also includes an escalator clause and addresses new Occupational Health and Safety issues that were not previously contemplated	- Canada shouldn't interfere with our autonomy; should have more autonomy with our grants - Provide audited financials, but being treated the same as other First Nations without something similar to our grant agreement because ISC likes to keep unanimity with their approach - Canada should be enabling communities to take fiscal control over their own communities - Those negotiating the grant should seek the appropriate authorities to make a deal - Grant was first started in 1987 and there are certain items that were not contemplated, such as a 2% economic escalator applied to salaries, or funding for more modern necessities such as cybersecurity or technology infrastructure
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	- Wants an increase to the TAC on lobster and Jonah crab - Wants to address ATR issues including capacity support offered to First Nations – e.g. support for Land Use Plan development - Wants to create a better ATR process with a tribunal component - Suggested community operations and readiness program linked to ATR to ensure land yields maximum profit to support the nation	- Jonah crab ask of 10% extra is a Clearwater coalition ask - DFO denied the request despite science supporting it even with the precautionary approach - Want to adopt a better escalator under the NFR grant; ISC is open to this - ATR is moving along slowly - Surveys could be stale-dated at this point - Need capacity development funding

Newfoundland - Ktaqmkuk - Miawpukek First Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Justice	Called for policing legislation to entrench it as an essential service	- No policing station in the community; have gaps to fill and have poor response times (approximately 1-1.5 hours) - Community should have 40 hours per week of policing, but there is a lack of presence and a lack of enforcement of by-laws
Infrastructure	Wants to change population-based formula for on-reserve housing as inflation has had significant impacts	- Recruitment and retention relies on our ability to offer housing - Only able to build between 2-3/year; have a 40-year wait list - Since there are no returns on infrastructure, it's hard to get loans - Want program to have capacity support to put infrastructure in GIS system like in Eel River Bar in order to ensure that investments and decision related to the Asset Management Program are data driven
Citizenship	Wants to eliminate the second-generation cut-off	

Newfoundland - Ktaqmkuk - Qalipu First Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Governance	Wants government support for the legitimacy of Qalipu's status as an Indigenous community as defined under the Indian Act	- Wants government to verify Indigenous participation in initiatives - Provincial government consultation terms are ambiguous; would be good to have process similar to NS
Health & Social Issues	- Wants core funding for Institute for Advancement of Aboriginal Women - Needs wrap-around services for those struggling with addiction such as childcare, education, transitional housing, employment services, traditional healing services, etc. - Needs support to create a group focused on empowering Indigenous women	- Important that funders adhere to funding guidelines regarding eligibility and definition of "Indigenous government"; not being consistently applied - ISC funding is in arrears - covering approximately \$5M from OSR
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	- Needs core funding to assess and monitor the cumulative effects of projects on Mi'kmaq territory - Wants inclusion in the provincial system for project review and approvals - Wants to get an appropriate share of fishery quota for adjacent waters - Needs federal support for seal products on the international market	- Province and federal government should align on "buy Canada" policy- we are losing out on procurement bids to US firms - Need core funding for Qalipu department of Natural Resources and Economic Development (currently project-based and it is limiting

Newfoundland - Ktaqmkuk - Qalipu First Nation

Summarized from Meeting

Category	Reconcili-ACTION	2025 Updates/Comments
Justice	- Needs capacity development dollars and funding support for the creation of community safety plans - Advocated for support to families of victims of crime - Recommended a change in the definition of "family" for victims to include support people	Need emergency response and EMAP funding
Infrastructure	Needs detox centre and traditional healing centre closer to Qalipu communities	
Citizenship	Wants more autonomy in determining citizenship	Wants more autonomy in determining citizenship

Québec - Gespeg - Listuguj

Content Submission Received - No Progress Notes

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Governance	• Need to recognize Indigenous inherent right to govern • Face a French language barrier to operations • Jurisdictional issues regarding accessing healthcare and services • Need single point-of-sale throughout NB as these are the closest communities to Listuguj • By-law creation and enforcement support • Want a fire chief to help with prevention, education, fires safety plans, etc. • Need capacity development funding
Health & Social Issues	• Facing mental health and addictions issues
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• Fishery agreements should be between communities • DFO detaining fishers in inhuman fashion • Additions to reserve take too long • Need increased capacity to fight forest fires • Need support in establishing a tourism industry
Justice	• Violent crime and sex trafficking are occurring within the community • Drug trafficking is a major issue • Want First Nation control over policing • Need to start from the foundation of Indigenous legal traditions • Language a major barrier in getting appropriate training local police forces
Infrastructure	• Fire department is under-resourced • Climate change = coastal erosion - looking for funding to build a break wall • Want to build a detox and treatment centre in the community
Language, Culture & History	• Need support to capture traditional knowledge • Need support for language revitalization

Québec - Gespeg - Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi Secretariat (MMS)

No Updates Received by Publishing Deadline

Category	Reconcili-ACTION
Governance	• First Nations should have control over their own affairs, lands and resources • Canada's new policies around Comprehensive Agreements and self-government are too vague and bring uncertainty • Québec only recognizes comprehensive land claims • Need to focus on how Québec communities, as signatories to the Peace and Friendship Treaties, can also implement these treaty rights • ISC and CIRNA split has caused confusion and created silos
Health & Social Issues	• High rate of diabetes, chronic disease and cancer in communities
Economic Development, Lands & Resources	• DFO fishery negotiations should start with recognizing Indigenous laws and traditional ownership • Need support for fishers under a moderate livelihood • Gespeg needs land for their community - there is a historical commitment to create a reserve • Need more advancement on land and natural resource reconciliation • Should have an Impact Benefit Agreement on forestry
Justice	• High rate of crime in communities
Infrastructure	• Need housing supports for students
Language, Culture & History	• Looking for funding to preserve elders' knowledge

The Extra Work

MOVING BEYOND THE PRIORITIES TO SUPPORT
REQUESTS FROM THROUGHOUT MI'KMA'KI AND
OTHER INITIATIVES

Work in the Region

Helping communities and individuals throughout the past year

In addition to the short, medium and long-term priorities identified above, the Senator and his office have responded to several requests for support from throughout Mi'kma'ki, while also undertaking several initiatives. These would be in addition to the Senator's core duties around legislative review, committee work and any responsibilities to the Canadian Senators Group.

As a Mi'kmaw man and a lawyer, the Senator is seen as a role model for youth and his thoughts and opinions are valued in the ongoing work of individuals and organizations also focused on supporting Mi'kma'ki. As a result, he receives multiple requests to speak at or participate in a variety of events and fora. He is a consistent contributor at SFX's learning lodges; he speaks regularly at the AFN; and rarely turns down requests to speak at his local school.

From the Senator's swearing-in in September, 2023 until the end of September, 2025, over 75 requests for support or speaking engagements were received. While some constituent requests were easily addressed with an email or phone call, or making inquiries with a department such as Immigration and Citizenship Canada or CRA, others required more attention and a greater allocation of resources to resolve. One case required advocating on behalf of a single mother with a severe physical disability who was threatened with the loss of Jordan's Principle funding that, in turn, was necessary to support her three children. Losing this funding would have resulted in their removal into provincial custody. Additionally, the office worked with a community to solve a regulatory concern and a lease-related concern around one of their businesses; and worked with a different community on their stalled negotiations with Ottawa on child welfare.

Of these three issues, the mother's funding was kept intact until she could find a long-term solution with the province, enabling her to retain custody of her children. The community's business-related concerns were both addressed; however, the second community's ongoing issues with Ottawa remain.

These cases have been included to illustrate the breadth of support Sen. Prosper and his office strive to provide to Mi'kmaq and Indigenous people broadly. While he has also supported non-Indigenous Nova Scotians throughout the year, Sen. Prosper remains cognizant of the fact that he is the only Mi'kmaw Senator out of ten senators representing the province.

Initiatives

Putting forth initiatives to support, promote & celebrate Mi'kmaq

Given the limitations of Senate resources, restricting the office to two full-time employees with some space for contract workers, careful thought is given to the number and types of initiatives that the Senator undertakes, as well as their overall cost. Initiatives must clearly relate to the Senator's priorities/interests; further Mi'kmaw priorities; serve as a tool or resource to Indigenous people; and/or promote Mi'kmaw individuals and Indigenous excellence.

01 ————— Senator's Website

The website is meant to be a tool to users providing information and resources such as a searchable database of all federal funding available to Indigenous people, communities and organizations. Additionally, there are several one-pagers that describe the function of the Senate, tips for engaging with Parliamentarians, and so on. Ideas for additional one-pagers can be sent to Paul.Prospier@sen.parl.gc.ca. Resized versions of each one-pager are included here for easy reference, in the Appendices section (c.f. pages 164-168).

The website is also meant to be a means of accountability and transparency; it includes links to the Senator's calendar, speeches, voting record, expenses as well as other Senate interventions.

Users can also sign-up to receive regular updates about bills and other federal initiatives that impact Indigenous peoples, while receiving alerts on opportunities to engage with the federal government on issues of interest.

Future updates to the website will include a cultural preservation page that will feature: a Mi'kmaw word/phrase of the day; information on the Grand Council; an interactive map of Mi'kma'ki; recordings of interviews with elders and people of note; a photo gallery; a list of and links to Mi'kmaq resources; and a collection of Mi'kmaw stories and teachings. Many thanks to the elders, teachers, programmers and contractors who are helping to make this update a reality.

Initiatives

Putting forth initiatives to support, promote & celebrate Mi'kmaq

02

King Charles III Coronation Medals

To mark the coronation of King Charles III, an exclusive run of 30,000 medals were minted and awarded to Canadians who have contributed to their communities and Canada as a whole. Senator Prosper was able to more than double his allotment of medals, due to the generosity of retired NS Senator Hon. Stephen Greene (NS) and Sen. Judy White (NFLD).

Included here is a list a short biography of each recipient (c.f. pages 169-181). The majority of medals were awarded at two large events held in Membertou First Nation as well as Ottawa. For recipients unable to participate in those events, additional ceremonies were organized in their home communities with a focus on ensuring that each ceremony was reflective of Mi'kmaw traditions and truly a celebration of the individual and their accomplishments.

Initiatives

Putting forth initiatives to support, promote & celebrate Mi'kmaq

03 ————— 2025 Art Contest

In an effort to support creativity amongst Mi'kmaw youth, Sen. Prosper launched his inaugural Art Contest open to all school-aged Mi'kmaw children throughout Mi'kma'ki. Both winners received a cash prize of \$100 and a certificate of achievement. The winner of the Grades K-7 category will have their work featured on the Senator's 2025 Christmas card, while the winner of the Grades 8-12 category has their art featured on the cover of this report. The office plans to make this an annual event, so young artists should stay tuned for the next contest launch!

This year's entries can be found on pages 182-188.



SEN. PJ PROSPER'S ART CONTEST



2 0 2 5 —————



Initiatives

Putting forth initiatives to support, promote & celebrate Mi'kmaq

04

First Nations Priorities for the First 100 Days of Parliament

On May 12, 2025, Senator Prosper held a press conference with National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, Chief Leroy Denny (Eskasoni First Nation), Chief Gerry Toney (Annapolis Valley First Nation), First Nation Finance Authority CEO Ernie Daniels, Ta'n Etli-tpi'tmk Co-Lead Negotiator James Michael, One Bowl Executive Director Candace Larsen and other Indigenous leaders to highlight seven key priorities that can be reasonably actioned in the first 100 days of Parliament. These priorities have also been linked to the government priorities outlined in the recent Speech from the Throne.

The countdown started on May 28, 2025, the day after the Speech from the Throne, and ends on October 16, 2025, after 100 sitting days in Parliament.

Currently, there has been progress on 2 priorities, with the potential for more advancement within the upcoming fall budget.



SENATOR PJ PROSPER

FIRST 100 DAYS OF PARLIAMENT PRIORITIES

Indigenous issues and priorities cannot be placed behind other issues facing Canada today. If Canada is to take a strong, unified stand against shifting geopolitical realities that threaten to undermine our sovereignty and national stability, it must place Indigenous priorities front and centre.

We cannot be an afterthought and we cannot be forgotten.

A strong and healthy Canada needs to have strong and healthy Indigenous nations. I'm calling on the federal government and newly elected Prime Minister Mark Carney to ensure we continue to build on recent progress toward true reconciliation.

Invest in the Indigenous Economy



"Canada Strong" cannot happen without Indigenous peoples. The Indigenous economy is estimated at \$65B; a joint report with CCIB and GAC discuss five priority areas that need to be addressed to help scale-up Indigenous businesses. Issues related to Additions to Reserve, specific claims and land claim disputes must be settled in order for Canada to build out their economic infrastructure. Legislation is also required to enable Special Purpose Vehicles in order to unlock additional private equity for Indigenous ventures.

Support Indigenous-led housing initiatives



Though only 5% of the population, Indigenous peoples make up 35% of the unhoused population in Canada. Canada should invest in and support the growth of Indigenous-led initiatives, such as One Bowl.

Re-introduce C-61 equivalent



C-61, the *First Nations Clean Water Act*, died on the Order Paper in the last Parliament. It is the result of a co-development process; the passage of legislation to ensure access to clean water is required under the 2021 First Nations Drinking Water Settlement. It is also important for the government to protect First Nation water sources.

Ta'n Etli-tpi'tmk (TEA) - Disability Payments



Canada must finalize the ISC-TEA Contribution agreement as requested by all NS Chiefs to enable TEA to disburse pre-identified funding for Disability Income Support to clients in all 13 Mi'kmaw communities - support that is now overdue due to bureaucratic delays.

Ta'n Etli-tpi'tmk (TEA) - Fiscal Relationship Agreement



Canada must transfer the information pertinent to this self-government negotiation without delay. The information requested is based off of band-specific information the Chiefs authorized to be released from ISC to TEA on June 26, 2024. Continued delays are unacceptable and in bad faith.

Follow through with the DFO external review



In March, 2024, two young Mi'kmaw fishers were detained and treated inhumanely by DFO officers; an external review was announced on July 8, 2024. Mi'kmaw members of the review panel were announced in March, 2025. DFO must complete the tender process within the first 100 days of Parliament so that the review process can finally begin.

Enable action on DFO's 2019 Reconciliation Strategy



Canada must provide DFO with a flexible and enabling mandate to promote and recognize the concurrent application of Indigenous fisheries laws and management structures in the implementation of rights-based fisheries and develop plans for increased fisheries access including increased species allocation as well as infrastructure investment into facilities and capacity.

7 INDIGENOUS PRIORITIES FOR THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF PARLIAMENT

AND HOW THEY ALIGN TO THE PRIORITIES OUTLINED IN
THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

PRIORITY 1 INVEST IN THE INDIGENOUS ECONOMY

"Central to this commitment is the creation of long-term wealth and prosperity with Indigenous Peoples."

Can be achieved by:

- Passing an amendment to the FNFMA to allow the FNFA to lend to Special Purpose Vehicles
- Settling land claims and speeding up ATRs to clear the way for "projects of national significance"
- Supporting Indigenous businesses to unlock \$65B in potential contributions to the GDP through increased domestic and international trade

PRIORITY 3 RE-INTRODUCE C-61 EQUIVALENT

"...upholding Canada's world-leading environmental standards and its constitutional obligations to Indigenous Peoples."

Can be achieved by:

- Respecting the terms of the 2021 First Nations Drinking Water Settlement and immediately reintroducing the version of C-61 that passed in committee in the last Parliament

PRIORITY 5 TA'N ETLI-TPI'TMK (TEA) - FISCAL RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT

"The Government will balance its operating budget over the next three years by cutting waste, capping the public service, ending duplication, and deploying technology to improve public sector productivity."

Can be achieved by:

- Taking ISC officials and departmental staff out of the equation, and enabling TEA staff to add the disbursement of social assistance payments (comparable to that received by Nova Scotians living off-reserve) to their current duties

*Fulfilling this priority only requires that information requested and already compiled be sent to TEA after over a year's wait so that negotiations can continue to move forward.

PRIORITY 7 ENABLE ACTION ON DFO'S 2019 RECONCILIATION STRATEGY

"The Government will be a reliable partner to Indigenous Peoples, upholding its fundamental commitment to advancing reconciliation."

Can be achieved by:

- Providing DFO with a flexible and enabling mandate to promote and recognize the concurrent application of Indigenous fisheries laws and management structures in the implementation of rights-based fisheries and develop plans for increased fisheries access including increased species allocation as well as infrastructure investment into facilities and capacity.

PRIORITY 2 SUPPORT INDIGENOUS-LED HOUSING INITIATIVES

"...Government will undertake a series of measures to... [create] an entirely new housing industry — using Canadian technology, Canadian skilled workers, and Canadian lumber...will act to accelerate the development of new affordable housing."

Can be achieved by:

- Supporting Indigenous-led initiatives, such as One Bowl

PRIORITY 4 TA'N ETLI-TPI'TMK (TEA) - DISABILITY PAYMENTS

"Transfers to provinces, territories, or individuals will be maintained."

Can be achieved by:

- Flowing the Disability Income Assistance funding currently being held by ISC to TEA for disbursement to all 13 Mi' kmaq communities in Nova Scotia

PRIORITY 6 FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE DFO EXTERNAL REVIEW

"... it is my great hope that in each of your communities, and collectively as a country, a path is found toward truth and reconciliation, in both word and deed."

Can be achieved by:

- Tendering and standing up the external review committee promised to Mi' kmaq on July 8, 2024



Initiatives

Putting forth initiatives to support, promote & celebrate Mi'kmaq

05

Pre-budget Submission

Part of every budget cycle is the opportunity for communities, organizations and individuals to bring forward pre-budget submissions that help to inform the government on how best to allocate public funds in support of Canadians.

Normally, the Government tables a budget in the spring and will sometimes (not always) issue a Fall Economic Statement. This is in addition to other budgetary procedures to secure money for programs and government departments and ministries such as budget implementation acts, main estimates and supplementary estimates.

This year, given the timing of the election and the need to address immediate concerns such as the ongoing trade dispute with the United States, Prime Minister Carney's government have decided to table a full budget in the fall. As part of a new annual initiative, Sen. Prosper has pulled together a short pre-budget submission that highlights potential solutions to key issues raised throughout Mi'kma'ki.

This year's submission focuses on solutions that he feels would support increased opportunities for economic development, housing, and social well-being. He also draws particular attention to the need to settle land claims and speed up Additions-to-Reserve; the Senator feels that these land-related concerns must be addressed before the Government can move forward with ambitious nation-building projects of national interest that will most certainly encroach upon or cross-over lands covered by one or more of these claims.

*NB - Appendices have not been included in this version as some submissions include sensitive and confidential information.

FALL BUDGET, 2025-26

PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION



Prepared By :

Office of Sen. PJ Prosper
Senator for Nova Scotia/Mi'kma'ki

Submission Date: Aug. 21, 2025



HON. PAUL “PJ” PROSPER

Senator for Nova Scotia

L'HON. PAUL “PJ” PROSPER

Sénateur de la Nouvelle- Écosse

HON. PAUL “PJ” PROSPER

Kepme' te' w Senetl

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne,
Minister of Finance and National Revenue

Delivered by email

August 21, 2025

Dear Minister Champagne,

As your government moves forward with “ambitious savings proposals” requested by the Prime Minister, I have been concerned about the potential impact these potential cuts would have on Indigenous peoples.

While recognizing your need to scale back government funding to ensure you govern from a place of fiscal responsibility, I believe that the following submissions are in line with Prime Minister Carney’s statement in his mandate letter to cabinet, pledging to “using scarce tax dollars to catalyse multiples of private investment.”

Each item relates directly to one or more of the Prime Minister’s stated seven priorities for investment, and outlines the expected Return on Investment (ROI) for Canada.

While my submission summarizes the initiatives, you will find the original pre-budget submissions in the appendices.

It is my hope that you will consider these submissions that not only align with the Prime Minister’s mandate, but with your government’s reiterated commitment to reconciliation as well as to the King’s comments in the Speech from the Throne when he stated, “... it is my great hope that in each of your communities, and collectively as a country, a path is found toward truth and reconciliation, in both word and deed.”

Thank you/Wela’lin/Merci,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul".

Hon. PJ Prosper

FIRST NATIONS FINANCE AUTHORITY (FNFA)

RECOMMENDATION 1: THAT CANADA SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO THE FIRST NATIONS FISCAL MANAGEMENT ACT, TO ALLOW FNFA TO LEND DIRECTLY TO INDIGENOUS OWNED SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES (SPVS) WHERE A FEDERAL OR PROVINCIAL LOAN GUARANTEE IS APPLIED OR WHERE PROVINCIAL OR TERRITORIAL CROWN CORPORATIONS (E.G. HYDRO) PROVIDE LONG-TERM GUARANTEED AGREEMENTS.

RECOMMENDATION 2: THAT CANADA SPEND \$200 MILLION PER YEAR OVER 20 YEARS TO ESTABLISH A DEDICATED INFRASTRUCTURE MONETIZATION FUND AND \$4 MILLION FOR FUND OPERATIONS FOR FIRST NATIONS SEEKING INNOVATIVE WAYS TO ADDRESS THEIR HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS, AND FOR LOAN SERVICING ON FNFA'S \$2.4 BILLION INFRASTRUCTURE "RECONCILIATION DEBENTURE".

RECOMMENDATION 3: THAT CANADA ALLOCATE \$106 MILLION OVER 2 YEARS TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BONDING AND SURETY FUND TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED COLLATERAL FOR ON-RESERVE FIRST NATIONS CONTRACTORS THAT ENABLES EQUITABLE ACCESS AND ABILITY TO GET MARKET-PRICE INSURANCE TO FAIRLY BID ON INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACTS.

ISSUE OVERVIEW

The FNFA is a non-profit organization without share capital, operating under the authority of the *First Nations Fiscal Management Act, 2005*. It has a proven track record of providing First Nation governments with investment options, capital planning advice, and perhaps most importantly, access to long-term loans with preferable interest rates.

TARGET OUTCOME(S)

- Increased funding options for First Nations to build critical infrastructure in their communities, realize their economic potential, and/or take an equity share in major projects throughout Canada.

LINK TO MANDATE LETTER

- Priority 2 - expediting nation-building projects & transforming the country
- Priority 4 - public-private cooperation to building housing and increase skilled trades
- Priority 7 - investing in people and business to build a strong economy

PROJECTED ROI

- Creating more self-sufficient First Nations requiring no core operational support from the federal government; unlocking First Nation economic potential; economies of scale, greater standardizations & more innovations

ONE BOWL HOUSING

RECOMMENDATION 1: THAT THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDE **\$6M INVESTMENT CAPITAL** TO LAUNCH MANUFACTURING FACILITY AND ESTABLISH IT AS A SKILLED TRADES TALENT HUB UNDER THE FORTHCOMING NATIONAL WORKFORCE STRATEGY.

RECOMMENDATION 2: THAT THE GOVERNMENT PRIORITIZE ONE BOWL'S "TREE TO HOME MODEL" WITHIN BUILD CANADA HOMES PROCUREMENT TO FAST-TRACK AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY USING CANADIAN-MADE INDIGENOUS-LED CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS.

ISSUE OVERVIEW

One Bowl is a First Nations-governed, not-for-profit social enterprise founded by Missanabie Cree, Chapleau Cree, and Brunswick House First Nations. Its model utilizes local forests to create regional supply chains that result in affordable, prefabricated homes while providing jobs and economic opportunities for Canada's Indigenous peoples.

TARGET OUTCOME(S)

- Creation of affordable, pre-fabricated homes using locally-sourced and sustainable timber
- Creation of over 100 permanent jobs in addition to training opportunities for Indigenous individuals

LINK TO MANDATE LETTER

- Priority 3 - by lowering the cost of housing construction
- Priority 4 - by contributing to a "modern housing industry, and creating new careers in the skilled trades."

PROJECTED ROI

- Job creation; wealth generation for Indigenous communities; more homes built for less

SPECIFIC CLAIMS RESEARCH

RECOMMENDATION 1: THAT THE GOVERNMENT INCREASE THE AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR THE SPECIFIC CLAIMS PROCESS TO **\$50M/YEAR** TO ENSURE THAT FIRST NATIONS CAN ENGAGE MEANINGFULLY WITH CANADA ON MATTERS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH FPIC.

RECOMMENDATION 2: THAT THE GOVERNMENT RESTART CONSULTATION REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE *ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT* AND THE *PRIVACY ACT* TO ENSURE FIRST NATIONS CAN EQUITABLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY ACCESS THEIR OWN INFORMATION HELD BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. MI'KMAW NEGOTIATORS ARE SEEKING **\$38,181,000** TO ADDRESS CURRENT SHORTFALLS.

ISSUE OVERVIEW

Since 1982, the Specific Claims process has addressed Canada’s outstanding lawful obligations to First Nations relating to the administration of land, honouring historic treaties, or fulfilling other agreements. This process serves as an effective alternative to the often limiting, protracted, and costly litigation process. Unfortunately, Canada has consistently under-funded and under resourced specific claims, leading to uncertainty and unrest amongst First Nations.

TARGET OUTCOME(S)

- The resolution of specific claims and outstanding land disputes, clearing the way for construction of much needed infrastructure and major projects

LINK TO MANDATE LETTER

- Priority 2 - helping to expedite “nation-building projects that will connect and transform our country”

PROJECTED ROI

- Economic and social benefits of much-needed infrastructure and major projects in lands where specific claims have been identified and settled

TA'N ETLI-TPI'TMK

RECOMMENDATION 1: THAT CANADA CONCLUDE THE CANADA-MI'KMAQ FISCAL RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE DELIVERY OF PROVINCIALY-COMPARABLE EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT, INCOME ASSISTANCE AND DISABILITY SUPPORT.

ISSUE OVERVIEW

Since 2011, Mi'kmaq leaders have negotiated with Canada to establish a sectoral self-government agreement regarding social assistance on-reserve. The goal continues to be to close the gap between what is delivered in First Nations communities and what is delivered by the province of Nova Scotia. Ta'n Etli-tpi'tmk is comprised of passionate, dedicated individuals negotiating on behalf of 12 of the 13 Mi'kmaw communities in the province. The Financial Modelling Exercise they have provided to Canada's negotiators is based on a consistent demand for provincial comparability in order to meet the basic human rights of Nova Scotian Mi'kmaq.

TARGET OUTCOME(S)

- An on-reserve income assistance program that is comparable to Nova Scotia's program that is delivered by a Mi'kmaq-led organization.

LINK TO MANDATE LETTER

- Priority 3 - helping Canadians get ahead
- Priority 7 - Spending less on government operations so that Canadians can invest more in the people

PROJECTED ROI

- Poverty reduction within First Nations communities; meeting the basic human needs of Nova Scotian Mi'kmaq

YÄNONHCHIA' INDIGENOUS HOUSING FINANCE NETWORK

RECOMMENDATION 1: THAT THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDE \$150M TO SUPPORT THE FIRST 5 YEARS OF ACTIVITY WITH UP TO SIX IFI'S ACROSS CANADA.

RECOMMENDATION 2: THAT THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL \$350M YEARS TO SUPPORT YEARS 5-10 WITH AN INCREASED NETWORK OF UP TO 12 ADDITIONAL IFI'S.

ISSUE OVERVIEW

Yänonhchia' is an Indigenous-led non-profit organization seeking to collaborate with visionary partners to engage a broad and lasting transformation of the First Nations housing ecosystem. The programs seeks to involve up to 12 Indigenous Financial Institutions from across the country to assist First Nations individuals and governments to purchase, modify, renovate or monetize community-owned homes. Monetization and securitization activities will help grow the initial government investment requested into a projected \$5.8B in 20 years.

TARGET OUTCOME(S)

- Scaling up the successful regional model of the Aboriginal Savings Corporation of Canada that resulted in 300+ homes built and zero loan losses in multiple Quebec communities since 2005 with the ~\$50M raised through 30 bonds.

LINK TO MANDATE LETTER

- Priority 4 - contributing to a modern housing market with an innovative financial model proven to result in more homes being built in First Nation communities

PROJECTED ROI

- Generate powerful socio-economic ripple effects, promote autonomy, ignite a renewed sense of pride across communities and build intergenerational wealth.

Initiatives

Putting forth initiatives to support, promote & celebrate Mi'kmaq

06

Research

A senator's operating budget is less than \$300,000 per year. This includes line items such as staffing budgets, contracts, office supplies, venue and rentals for events. It does not include living expenses for the Senator in the National Capital Region, nor does it include travel. Expense disclosures and the Senate's governing policies are available online at <https://sencanada.ca/en/ProActive/>.

Senator Prosper is one of only a handful of senators that maintains a regional office; he shares an office with Regional Chief Andrea Paul at 12 Stanley Johnson Street in Millbrook First Nation.

Given the limitations of a smaller budget, much care and attention is given to use the available funds to maximize impact. Contracts were awarded for website development, as well as for additional research.

Two research products include preliminary work on assessing the true cost of crime, the amount chronic illnesses are costing the healthcare system, and the average economic impact per person in Nova Scotia. The goal of this work is to aid in assessing the potential Return on Investment (ROI) should the federal government make coordinated investments in justice reform, preventative care and education and skills development.

Additional work to be done will be looking at comparative models across the country to determine the overall impact of Indigenous-led solutions in justice, health and education on key outcomes such as reducing recidivism, lowering the rate of chronic illnesses in communities, increasing the average income on reserve, and so forth.

While work on this is ongoing, the office is looking to leverage the Library of Parliament as a resource, while continuing to engage contract researchers and partner with organizations throughout Mi'kma'ki to pull together key data required for evidence-backed policy proposals.

An additional research project undertaken by the office included the compilation of every federal recommendation made about First Nations people in Canada from 1996 to present, beginning with the five volume report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Reports included in the recommendation list include all House of Commons and Senate reports, as well as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Commission's 231 Calls for Justice, and the "First Nations" and "Shared Priorities" chapters of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan 2023-2028. It also includes recommendations made in departmental and federal agency reports, the Parliamentary Budget Officer's reports and the Auditor General's reports, where clear recommendations were made.

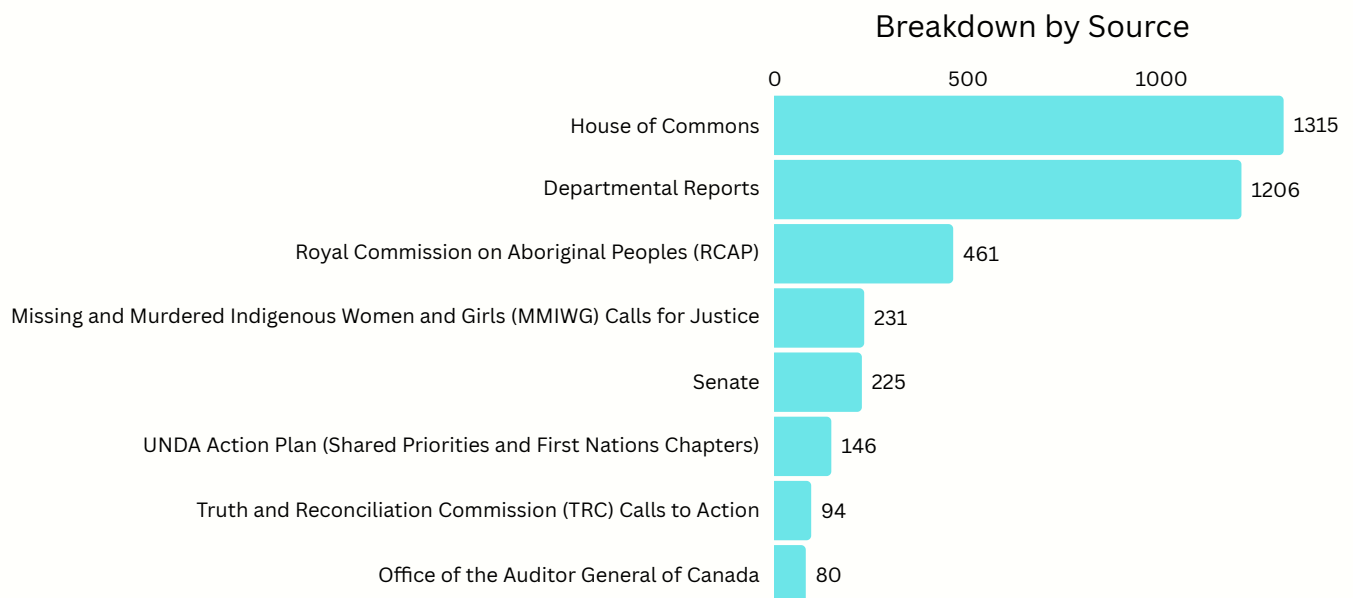
In total, 3758 recommendations were found while searching for the terms "First Nations", "Indigenous", "Aboriginal" and "Indian" over the 28-year span reviewed, extracted from 266 different reports published by 87 different committees, departments, commissions and agencies.

Work was undertaken this summer by two summer students who successfully passed a competitive process, to show which recommendations were completed, are still in progress, have not been completed, or that are no longer applicable. This document is available at pjprosper.ca under "Resources".

Crunching the Numbers

Below are key takeaways from the recommendations list project. The categories specified are the seven categories outlined in *Reconcili-ACTION*. Given the large amount of time, energy and resources that were devoted to creating these reports, Sen. Prosper feels that it is important to not duplicate what has been done, but to build on this work and to action the thoughtful recommendations that have been brought forward in the past, which are - sadly - still applicable today.

First Nations-related Federal Recommendations



87

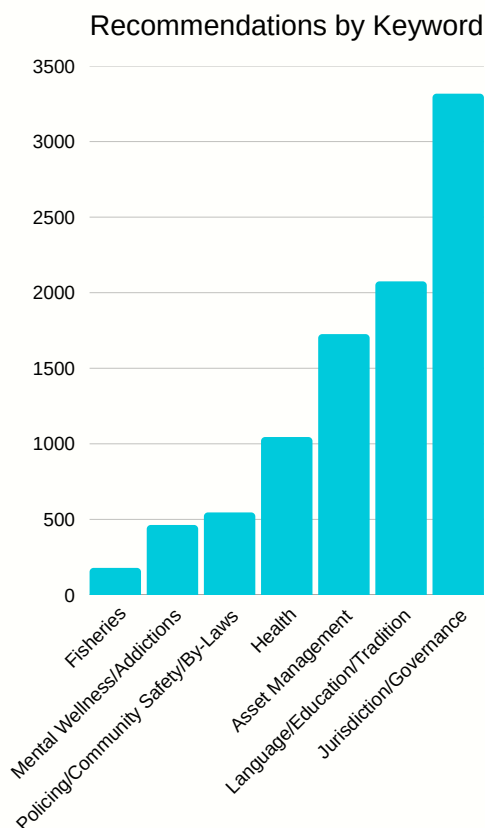
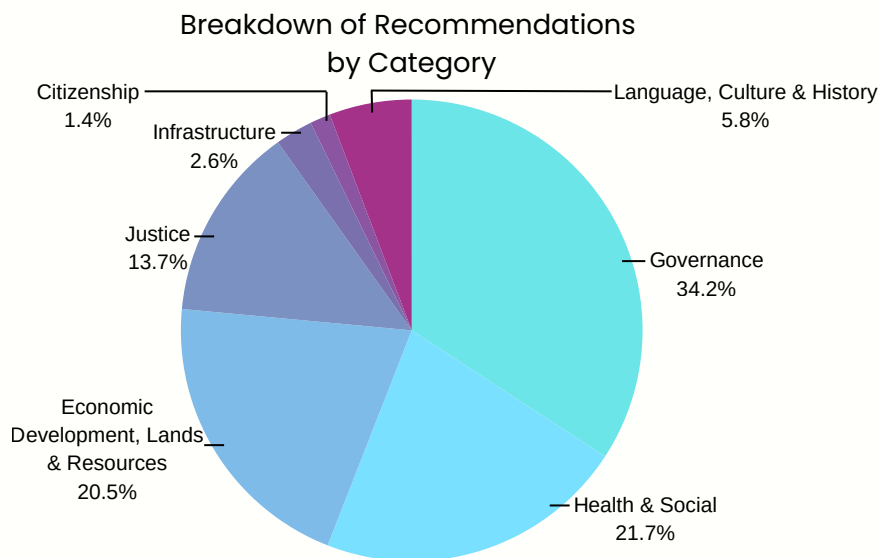
Unique Sources
Used to Generate
This Report

3758

Total
Recommendations
Identified

Key Themes

After compiling the information, Sen. Prosper's office undertook a preliminary analysis of the recommendations and identified common themes, recurring key words and breakdown by relation to categories identified in **Reconcili-ACTION**.



Common Themes

Increasing Support – Expand federal programs to support Indigenous self-governance and community-led initiatives.

Protecting Indigenous Women and Girls – Policies advancing the rights and protections of Indigenous women and girls.

Increasing Housing – Increase the availability of safe, affordable housing for Indigenous and underserved communities.

Growing Closer – Strengthen collaboration between federal, provincial, and Indigenous governments to improve policy implementation.

Protecting Indigenous Youth – Policies addressing the well-being, rights, and opportunities of Indigenous youth, including Inuit and Métis children.

Enforcing Treaty Rights and Indigenous Claims – Policies related to Indigenous treaty rights, land claims, and nation-to-nation relationships.

Strengthening Government Institutions and Indigenous Governance – Policies related to the role of government institutions in Indigenous governance and self-determination.

Improving Healthcare – Policies relating to improving healthcare access and outcomes for Indigenous and marginalized communities through targeted funding and services.

Protecting the Canadian Environment – Policies concerning Indigenous perspectives in Canadian environmental and legislative frameworks, including CEPA.

The Appendices

INCLUDES:

- 5 RESOURCES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE
- LIST OF KING CHARLES III CORONATION MEDAL RECIPIENTS
- ALL ART CONTEST SUBMISSIONS



WHAT CAN MY SENATOR DO FOR ME?



STATEMENTS

Senators are able to request statement slots that enable them to highlight important events; pay tribute to local leaders and outstanding Canadians; speak to issues that are important to them and the people represent; and so much more. As long as a statement doesn't speak to legislation or an issue currently before the Senate, there is a lot of latitude on how to use that time.



SPEECHES

The primary function of a Senator is to be a legislator. The Senate's primary purpose is to provide sober second thought on legislation, and to ensure that regional concerns and the concerns of minorities are brought forward and represented in the Senate Chamber.



QUESTION PERIOD

Every sitting day, Senators have the opportunity to ask questions of the Government Leader on any topic that is within the federal jurisdiction. The answers received to these questions are important as they are part of the official record, called "the Hansard"; it's a way of ensuring the government is accountable for their actions or, in some cases, inaction. Senators also have the opportunity to question Ministers of the Crown from time to time, or they could choose to ask a

Senators play a key role in reviewing all federal legislation and acting as the voice of minorities and regions within Parliament. They have several tools available to them to help advocate for you and the issues that matter most to you.

GET IN TOUCH!

Paul.Prosp@sen.parl.gc.ca

613.995.2922

LESS FREQUENTLY USED TOOLS



Inquiries

For topics that Senators feel deserve more time to be discussed and debated, Senators can start Inquiries that allow fellow Senators to put on the record their thoughts and opinions on those issues. Some inquiries are coordinated so that multiple Senators stand and speak to the topic in a single day, while others can occur over the course of weeks, months and sometimes years. This keeps an issue relevant and top of mind, while allowing for a diverse collection of voices to weigh in.



Motions

More rarely used, Senators can initiate motions to try and get Senators to agree to take a united stand on a topic or issue or agree to a specific action or study.



Public Bills

Senators can take issues that don't require money to fix and try to pass into law something to address that issue. This is called a Senate Public Bill. For more information on how a Bill becomes a law, see "Charting the Passage of Legislation."



Private Bills

A private bill is based on a petition from the group or person asking for specific legislation to be passed; however, this is very rare.



Watch the proceedings

<https://senparlvu.parl.gc.ca/Harmony>



Read the transcripts

<https://sencanada.ca/en/in-the-chamber/debates/>

Find more helpful resources:
www.PJProsper.ca

CHARTING THE PASSAGE OF Legislation

What the Public knows

Bills can start in either the House of Commons or the Senate. Bills that require new money to be spent, must start in the House.

Second reading is where the principle of the bill is debated. The sponsor speaks, as do critics and any other parliamentarians who is interested in the bill. Then it goes to a vote.

Bills that successfully pass second reading (2R) are sent to a committee for study. Committee members can amend (change) the bill and/or attach observations (points they feel are important to highlight).

When the committee is done its study, it needs to report back whether or not there were amendments and observations made. The report then has to be adopted by the Chamber. If not adopted, the bill would revert to its unamended form.

Once it passes report stage, the sponsor, critics and parliamentarians get to debate the substance of the bill (potentially as amended) before voting again.

If the bill started in the House and passes all stages, it moves onto the Senate and vice versa. All legislation must pass through both Houses.

In the Senate, there is only one official critic noted and the rest are referred to as “designated speakers”; in the House of Commons, each recognized party has a critic role assigned. Debates and votes are the same in both Chambers.

Usually, the second committee to look at a piece of legislation will try to fill in any potential gaps from the first study, while calling back key witnesses, like the Minister and their officials. This committee can also amend the bill and/or add observations.

This stage is the same in both Chambers.

This is the final debate round on a piece of legislation and, like in the previous Chamber, there can be last-minute amendments made prior to voting.

Once a bill has made its way through both Chambers and been voted through, it receives Royal Assent granted either through a ceremony or written declaration by the Governor General or the Chief Justice.

Insiders’ Perspective

The sponsor and the critic must speak in the House of Commons. In the Senate, this is not a rule but is the convention.

In the House, opposition parties can hold up legislation by putting up lots of speakers forcing the Government to pass time allocation and/or closure motions. Opposition days also add days to the movement of bills.

In the Senate, a critic can continue to claim they are not ready to speak and continually reset the clock every 15 sitting days.

There are many ways to delay a bill in committee - everything from filling up the witness lists to add meeting days to introducing countless amendments that must all be individually debated and voted on. Committees can add observations and even choose to report against a piece of legislation.

Those opposed to a bill can use the same tactics in 2R at report and 3R. Opposition members can also try to amend or reject a report.

In addition to the usual delay tactics, amendments can be introduced at 3R that must now also be debated and voted on. Standing votes can be triggered to take up more time and force additional sitting days be devoted to the consideration of the bill.

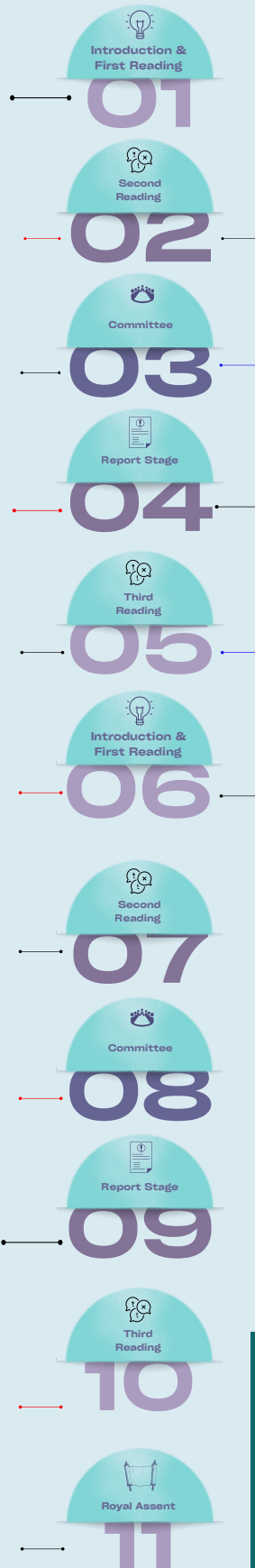
The parliamentary schedule is a major factor to be considered as it adds to the math when trying to calculate how long the passage of a bill will take. Trying to account for potential delay tactics at the various stages is not enough.

The Senate, for instance, only sits Tuesdays-Thursdays unless they have been called back for additional days. There are whole weeks dedicated to Parliamentarians doing constituency work called “non-sitting weeks” where both Chambers do not sit.

Then there is the issue of timing. The House of Commons has more rules governing their Order of Business that limit the amount of time available to debate legislation in a given day, while the Senate has dinner breaks and can only sit until midnight.

It is important to understand that there are many tactics that can delay the consideration of controversial legislation and it takes years of experience to understand how the many different and complex factors can affect the passage of a bill through the legislative process.

The backroom realities of how legislation is passed is not something that could ever fully be captured in writing. This infographic is only meant to serve as a glimpse behind the curtain for members of the public. It is hoped that this information is helpful for individuals and organizations advocating for legislative change to address their issues and concerns.



THE CABINET PROCESS: FROM IDEA TO LEGISLATION

01

PRESENTING AN MC

If an issue requires legislation, the Minister will go to the relevant cabinet committee and propose various options on how to deal with an issue related to their file.

02

ANALYSIS

Treasury Board weighs in on the various options presented, the Minister identifies their preferred option and also discusses with Finance whether potential costs associated with those options are feasible

03

DECISION

The committee will either pick an option to go to full cabinet or the MC will be defeated. An MC will have a scope and drafting instructions and, once ratified by cabinet, drafting can begin.

04

COORDINATION

Once drafting is complete, the responsible Minister coordinates with the Government House Leader and PMO on when the bill will be introduced. A bill review is also performed.

05

MOVEMENT

The bill then is introduced into either the House of Commons or the Senate and makes its way through the legislative process (See "Charting the Passage of Legislation" for more details.)

KEEP IN MIND...

This is the general path of how an idea becomes legislation. There are lots of political considerations and external influencing factors to consider how quickly something can move through this process.



5 KEY POINTS

To successfully engage with Parliamentarians

1. Research and anticipate

It's important to have as much data and research as possible to defend your position when meeting with Parliamentarians and their staff. Spend time anticipating what kind of questions they will likely ask and make sure to have well-reasoned, well-researched answers ready. Statistics, reports and academic papers are all very helpful to be able to point back to in an answer.

It is also a good idea to research the person you are meeting with to help you frame your issue in a way that appeals to them and their interests.



“Success is where preparation and opportunity meet”
~ Bobby Unser

2. Define the bottom line



Every Parliamentarian or staffer will want to know what your “ask” is; that is, what is it that you need from them or need them to do on your behalf? You could ask for funding, legislation, legislative amendments, policy change, advocacy, and so forth.

It's helpful to tie asks to the government back to government policies or commitments, while opposition members would be interested in how it relates to their specific ideology or party platform.

3. Simplify your message

Time is usually very short when meeting with a Parliamentarian or their staff. You should be able to explain your issue, define your ask, and leave time for questions and discussion all within a 30 minute timeslot. It's a bonus if you can get a full hour. Try to focus on the key points and let your handouts and follow-up documents get into the technical details for you. Parliamentary offices will follow-up if they are interested.



4. Keep designs simple and impactful

Parliamentary offices receive hundreds of emails, briefs, handouts and presentations or “decks” everyday. It's impossible to read it all. Keep your documents short and work on making them graphically-appealing with an impactful design. Focus on highlighting important statistics and include links for those who would like to dive deeper into your issue and your reference materials.



5. Give lots of notice

The schedules of Parliamentarians and their staff book up quickly. If possible, make sure to give at least 3 weeks' notice when requesting a meeting. When scheduling several meetings in one day, see about meeting with groups of Parliamentarians to be more efficient, and build in transition time from one meeting to the next into your schedule. The Parliamentary precinct is quite large and there could be several blocks in between meeting venues.

Find more helpful resources:

www.PJProsper.ca

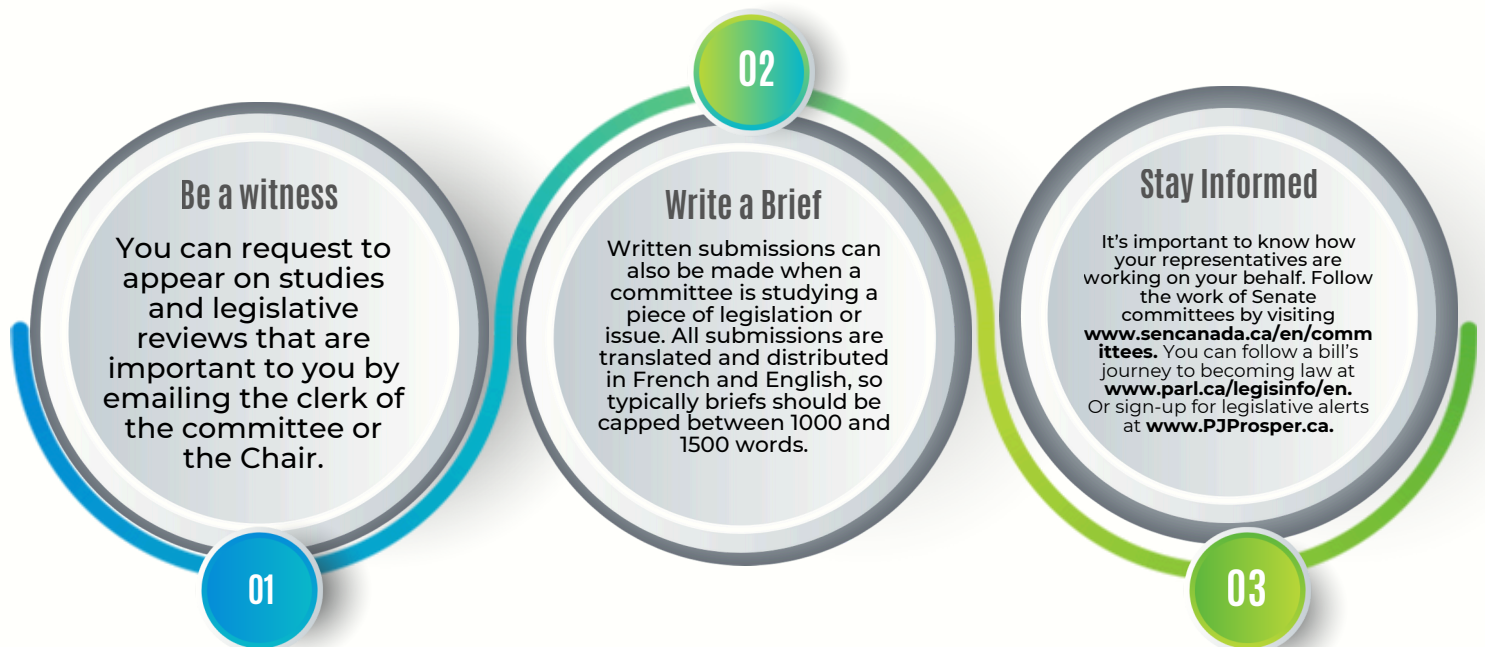
The Power of *Senate Committees*

Some of the most relevant and enduring work of the Senate has happened in its committees; they have two primary purposes. The first is to study legislation, with government bills taking priority over Senate Public Bills or Private Members Bills from the House of Commons. It's at this stage that changes or "amendments" can be made to that bill. They can also append observations to a bill to draw attention to important factors that should be considered when interpreting the bill or noting issues with the bill that were not addressed by amendments.

(For more information on this process, see our reference document called "Charting the Passage of Legislation".)

Secondly, committees can initiate studies on a certain topic related to that committee's mandate. These studies can be anywhere from a day to years long, depending on the complexity of the issue. At the end of the study, a report is tabled in the Senate Chamber, usually with recommendations to the government to address the issue. The Committee's Chair can move that the report be adopted with a request for a government response, giving the government 180 days to formally respond to each recommendation in the report. It's through this mechanism that Senate committees have the power to contribute to change either by forming the basis for new legislation or helping shape and change policy.

How Can I get involved in a Senate committee's work?

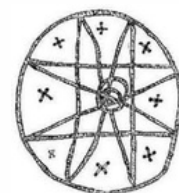


Find more helpful resources:
www.PJProsper.ca



KING CHARLES III CORONATION MEDAL RECIPIENTS

*Presented by
Senator PJ Prosper*



ABOUT THE KING CHARLES III CORONATION MEDAL

This medal is awarded to Canadians in recognition of their valuable contributions to their communities and to Canada as a whole.

A limited number of medals were allocated to all sitting Parliamentarians to award. Sen. Prosper would like to thank Senators Greene (NS - Retired) & White (NFLD) for sharing some or all of their allocations with him, enabling him to recognize more people across Mi'kma'ki and Canada.

Historical Notes

The medal program was first announced three days before the Coronation, on 3 May 2023, by the Prime Minister.

The medal was designed by Cathy Bursey-Sabourin, Fraser Herald at the Canadian Heraldic Authority at the Chancellery of Honours, Rideau Hall.

The medal is struck in nickel-silver and lacquered to prevent tarnishing. It is manufactured by the Royal Canadian Mint.

OFFICIAL MESSAGE

By Command of THE KING the Coronation Medal is hereby conferred upon you in commemoration of His Majesty's Coronation as King of Canada and in recognition of your valuable contribution to your country.

~

Tel-Puatk ELEKE'WIT Wsua'lan ki'l
Mikwite'tmaqney Metal wjit Teli-Eleke'wa'luj
Eleke'win ula Kanata Aq Mui'walulk ki'l wjit Teli
wli-apoqnmatmn Km̐tki



A message from the Senator

HOW I APPROACHED NOMINATING RECIPIENTS

An elder once told me that leaders are those who step forward. Our past and future generations bear witness to the decisions leadership makes today. That was why it was important for me to recognize elders, youth, and leaders through this award. I hope that this medal symbolizes the passion, conviction and vision that every recipient has displayed through their work and advocacy throughout the years.

While I have selected many leaders throughout Mi'kmaw Nation, it was important for me to recognize and raise up other Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders throughout Canada, whose contributions have left an indelible mark on our country for the next seven generations. Thank you to each and everyone of you for sharing your spirit and stepping forward.

LIST OF RECIPIENTS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Ms. Gillian S. Allen | 25. Dr. Jane McMillan |
| 2. Keptin Dr. Stephen J. Augustine | 26. Keptin Dr. Fred Metallic |
| 3. Mr. Isaiah Bernard | 27. Mr. James A. Michael |
| 4. Chief John Leonard Bernard | 28. Mr. Albert Netser |
| 5. District Chief Alex Christmas | 29. Regional Chief Andrea Paul |
| 6. Ms. Jennifer Copage | 30. Elder Edward Perley |
| 7. Mr. Rufus Copage | 31. Chief Sidney Peters |
| 8. Ms. Annie Daisley | 32. District Chief Dr. Sherry Pictou |
| 9. Hon. Paul Favel | 33. Elder Agnes Potter |
| 10. Chief Michelle Glasgow | 34. Chief Carol D. Potter |
| 11. Chief Robert Gloade | 35. Keptin John R. Prosper |
| 12. Mr. Robert Greenley | 36. Chief Deborah Robinson |
| 13. Ms. Udloriak Hanson | 37. Dr. Viola Robinson |
| 14. Elder Ernest Johnson | 38. Ms. Adelheid Ruppenstein |
| 15. Chief Cory Julian | 39. Ms. Claudine Santos |
| 16. Elder Dr. Donald M. Julien | 40. Dr. Brian Steeves |
| 17. Mr. Pujjuut Kusugak | 41. Keptin Chief Gerald B. Toney |
| 18. Elder Gordon LaBillois | 42. Dr. Rongo H. Wetere |
| 19. Ms. Rosalie LaBillois Wysote | 43. Elder Dr. Calvin White |
| 20. Ms. Janice Maloney | 44. Mr. Bruce H. Wildsmith |
| 21. Elder Dr. Albert Marshall | 45. Mr. Tuma Young |
| 22. Chief Wilbert Marshall | 46. Dr. Sakej Youngblood Henderson |
| 23. Elder Catherine Martin | 47. Mr. Eric Zscheile |
| 24. Ms. Mary Mason | |

MS. GILLIAN S. ALLEN

Nova Scotia

Ms. Allen has dedicated over 30 years supporting Mi'kmaw Nation as a seasoned historical researcher in the areas of (but not limited to) Aboriginal title, Aboriginal rights, and treaty rights research, negotiation, and litigation.

KEPTIN DR. STEPHEN J. AUGUSTINE

Nova Scotia

Dr. Augustine has shared his expertise in research and traditional knowledge across Canada. A former professor, an author, he has been recorded for radio and video programs on traditional knowledge, Maritimes history and treaties, and storytelling. He has served as a Keptin of the Grand Council since 1989.

MR. ISAIAH BERNARD

Nova Scotia

Mr. Bernard is a youth leader. He is a council member in his community of Potlotek, is the President of the Wabanaki Youth Council and is the fourth Mi'kmaq and second Nova Scotian to serve as the Assembly of First Nations Youth Council Co-Chair.

CHIEF JOHN LEONARD BERNARD

Nova Scotia

Chief Bernard is a former council member and former Interim Chief. He was elected in October 2024 as Chief of We'koqma'q. Chief Bernard currently serves as Co-Lead of the Justice Portfolio with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs.

DISTRICT CHIEF ALEX CHRISTMAS

Nova Scotia

Mr. Christmas currently serves as District Chief of the Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq. He has served as former President of the Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, under its former name, Union of Nova Scotia Indians, and has served on many boards over his career.

MS. JENNIFER COPAGE

Nova Scotia

Ms. Copage supported the Aboriginal Title Project (ATP), a joint initiative of the Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq and the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, transcribing traditional knowledge interviews. She has dedicated over 25 years supporting Mi'kmaw Nation.

MR. RUFUS COPAGE

Nova Scotia

Mr. Copage is a former United States Marine, former Youth Support worker with Mi'kmaw Family & Children Services of Nova Scotia, and former Chief of Sipekne'katik. He currently serves as council member of Sipekne'katik First Nation.

MS. ANNIE DAISLEY

Nova Scotia

Ms. Daisley was elected in 2020 as the first woman Chief of We'koqma'q, former council member for three terms, former President of the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association, former Co-Chair of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs. She is a strong advocate locally, provincially and nationally on matters related to Missing and Murdered Women and Girls.

HON. PAUL FAVEL, K.C.

Ontario

A current Federal Court Justice, Hon. Favel's former work specialized in Aboriginal law with an emphasis on corporate and commercial law related to First Nations economic development. He acted as legal counsel to various First Nations, advising on issues such as land designations, leases for commercial developments, land claims, and self-government negotiations.

CHIEF MICHELLE GLASGOW

Nova Scotia

Elected in November 2022 as the first woman Chief of Sipekne'katik. Chief Glasgow currently serves as Co-Lead for the Children, Youth, Families, and Gender, the Economic Development and Benefits, the Education, the Emergency Management and Crisis, the Health, Wellbeing, and Elders Portfolios with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs.

CHIEF ROBERT GLOADE

Nova Scotia

Chief Gloade has served as Chief of Millbrook First Nation for 14 years, he has served as former council member for 12 years. Chief Gloade's extensive experience in business has helped him guide his community in new business initiatives. He currently serves as Co-Lead of the Economic Development and Benefits Portfolio with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs.

MR. ROBERT GREENLEY

Nunavut

Mr. Greenley is the President of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association in western Nunavut. Prior to that, he served 8 years as the Chair of the Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Organization. He has worked in various positions and trades, contributing to his well-rounded, empathetic approach to complex, major issues such as poverty and homelessness.

MS. UDLORIAK HANSON

Nunavut

Ms. Hanson is a former Deputy Minister of ED&T with the Government of Nunavut. She has served in various organizations including NTI and ITK. She led the development of Qaujisaqtit Society, Nunavut's first charitable Consortium of non-profits, and was integral in the launching of the Annauma Community Foundation, the first Community Foundation in Nunavut.

ELDER ERNEST JOHNSON

Nova Scotia

Elder Johnson was the former Vice President of the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, former Vice President and served as Elder for the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, he currently serves on the Elder's Advisory Council for Mi'kmawey Debert. The concept of Netukulimk and Mi'kmaq land-based education are some of the areas he shares traditional knowledge.

CHIEF CORY JULIAN

Nova Scotia

Chief Julian was elected in November 2023 as Chief of Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation. Prior to that, he served as Interim Chief and was a former council member. Chief Julian is the current Co-Lead of the Environment, Energy and Mines, the Housing and Infrastructure and Natural Resources Portfolios with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs.

ELDER DR. DONALD M. JULIEN

Nova Scotia

Dr. Julien served as former Executive Director of The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq. He is a Mi'kmaw historian, human rights advocate, speaker, and peace time veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces. Dr. Julien currently serves as Elder in Residence at The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq.

MR. PUJJUUT KUSUGAK

Nunavut

Mr. Kusugak is a former teacher, former Director of Language and Cultural Development with the Kivalliq Inuit Association, former Hamlet Councilor and Mayor for Rankin Inlet, former Deputy Minister of Education for the Government of Nunavut and is currently the Director of Nunavut operations for Agnico Eagle.

ELDER GORDON LABILLOIS

New Brunswick

Elder LaBillois serves on the Board of Directors for the North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council. Climate change, sea level rise, species at risk, and traditional Mi'kmaq ways to view and care for the land are some of the areas where he shares traditional knowledge. He currently serves as Elder with Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Incorporated.

MS. ROSALIE LABILLOIS WYSOTE

New Brunswick

Ms. LaBillois Wysote is a youth leader. She serves as the current Youth Engagement Officer at Ulnooweg Indigenous Communities Foundation, the current New Brunswick Representative and former Assembly of First Nations Youth Council Co-Chair.

MS. JANICE MALONEY, K.C.

Nova Scotia

Ms. Maloney has served at the Nova Scotia Legal Aid, in private practice, at the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association and the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq where she helped develop the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network and Mi'kmaq Wills Kits. She is currently the Executive Director of the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative.

ELDER DR. ALBERT MARSHALL

Nova Scotia

Dr. Marshall's work has focused on preserving, strengthening and spreading Mi'kmaq culture, language, values and concepts. He is an author and co-creator of the Etuaptmumk/Two-Eyed Seeing guiding principle. He currently serves as Elder with Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources.

CHIEF WILBERT MARSHALL

Nova Scotia

Chief Wilbert Marshall first served as Chief of Potlotek from 2002 to 2008 and was elected again in 2010. He has held the position since then, more than once being re-elected by acclamation. Chief Marshall is currently Co-Lead of the Culture, Heritage and Archaeology, the Fisheries, and the Housing and Infrastructure Portfolios with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs.

ELDER CATHERINE MARTIN

Nova Scotia

Elder Martin is an independent international award winning film producer and director, a writer, facilitator, community activist, teacher, drummer, advocate for Indigenous arts, education, language and human rights. She is recognized as the first Mi'kmaw filmmaker from the Atlantic region.

MS. MARY MASON

Nova Scotia

Ms. Mason has supported Mi'kmaw Nation for many years while serving as an independent consultant at The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq. She has provided support and expertise on many initiatives.

DR. JANE MCMILLAN

Nova Scotia

Dr. McMillan is a legal anthropologist whose interdisciplinary research investigates Mi'kmaq strategies of treaty implementation, rights negotiation, social capital expansion and how they are translated into legitimate actions within Mi'kmaq ecological knowledge, governance, jurisprudence and sociocultural perceptions and practices.

KEPTIN DR. FRED METALLIC

Quebec

Dr. Metallic, is one of the leaders behind his community's fishing laws. He chronicled the history of Listuguj's right to fish. He traced the timeline of his community's laws and jurisdiction while recognizing the role of oral tradition, land, and Listuguj's philosophy in its law and treaty-making. He has served as a Keptin of the Grand Council since 2008.

MR. JAMES A. MICHAEL, K.C.

Nova Scotia

Mr. Michael was called to the bar in 1993 where he became the first Mi'kmaw lawyer in Nova Scotia. Former co-manager of the Aboriginal Title Project (ATP), a joint initiative of the Union of Nova Scotia Indians and the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq. Former Director of the Treaty & Aboriginal Rights Research Centre of NS. He also served to two terms on the Sipekne'katik Band Council.

MR. ALBERT NETSER

Nunavut

Mr. Netsers serves as the current Dean of Trades and Technology at Nunavut Arctic College. His years-long advocacy changed the education system in a way that recognizes and accredits Inuit students based on practical skills assessments, as tests, enabling the formal recognition of Inuit ways of knowing, learning and teaching for a strong, certified Inuit workforce in Nunavut.

REGIONAL CHIEF ANDREA PAUL

Nova Scotia

Regional Chief Paul was elected as the first woman Regional Chief of Nova Scotia in 2023. Previously, she served as Chief of Pictou Landing First Nation for 12 years where she played a prominent role in successfully advocating to stop the decades-long dumping of effluent into Boat Harbour.

ELDER EDWARD PERLEY

New Brunswick

Elder Perley is a teacher, drummer, singer, fire keeper, he helps to promote ceremony and culture. He currently serves as Elder in Residence for Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick where he provides guidance and an Indigenous perspective.

CHIEF SIDNEY PETERS

Nova Scotia

Chief Peters has worked in Aboriginal housing with various organizations including Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Native Council of Nova Scotia, and The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq where he served as the Manager of Lands, Environment, and Natural Resources. In 2012, he was elected as Chief of Glooscap First Nation and serves as Co-Chair of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs.

DISTRICT CHIEF DR. SHERRY PICTOU

Nova Scotia

District Chief for the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, former Chief of Bear River First Nation, current professor at Dalhousie University. Dr. Pictou is the Research Chair in Indigenous Governance where her research program seeks to address concerns about the limited participation of Indigenous women in governance and decision-making processes.

ELDER AGNES POTTER

Nova Scotia

Ms. Potter is Elder for the Native Women's Association of Nova Scotia, Elder of the East with the Native Women's Association of Canada. She is well known for her craftsmanship and has spent all her life helping others. She currently serves on the Elder's Advisory Council for Mi'kmawey Debert.

CHIEF CAROL D. POTTER

Nova Scotia

Chief Potter was elected in 2011 as Chief of Bear River First Nation. Previously, she has served at the Native Council of Nova Scotia, as BRFN Employment Officer and in the area of education. Chief Potter currently serves as Co-Lead of the Culture, Heritage and Archaeology, the Environment, Energy and Mines and the Social Assistance Portfolios with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs.

KEPTIN ELDER JOHN R. PROSPER

Nova Scotia

Elder Prosper is a community archivist, musician, and author. He served Paqtnekek Mi'kmaw Nation as Band Manager and Welfare Officer for 5 years then served full time in the role of Band Manager for a total of 41 years. He has served as Keptin of the Grand Council since 1993.

CHIEF DEBORAH ROBINSON

Nova Scotia

Chief Robinson was first elected as Chief of Acadia First Nation (now known as Wasoqopa'q First Nation) in 1987 and was recognized by the AFN as one of the longest serving chiefs in Canada. Chief Robinson is currently the Co-Lead of the Children, Youth, Families and Gender Diversity, and the Governance Portfolios with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs.

DR. VIOLA ROBINSON

Nova Scotia

Dr. Robinson has worked for Mi'kmaq people and for the human rights of First Nations across the country, a founding and long-time president of the Native Council of Nova Scotia and the Native Council of Canada, Senior Mi'kmaq Advisor on the Negotiations Team with the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative. Prior to retiring she served as Chief Lead Negotiator.

MS. ADELHEID RUPPENSTEIN

Ontario

Ms. Ruppenstein has served in social work positions, including Case Manager/Therapist for Family and Children Services for the District of Rainy River. She has volunteered with the Rainy River District Crisis Intervention Team, the Canadian Mental Health Association Board, and the Ontario Special Olympics. She served 16 years supporting now retired Senator Greene.

MS. CLAUDINE SANTOS

Ontario

Ms. Santos has served her community for 32 years in various philanthropic endeavors including organizing the fundraising to build an orphanage in Guatemala at age 8. She has founded and served as Chair/President of various organizations in BC and Ontario. During the pandemic, she helped deliver 1.5M masks and 6500L of hand sanitizer to Indigenous, northern and remote communities. She is the first Filipino director to serve in the Senate.

DR. BRIAN STEEVES

Nova Scotia

Dr. Steeves retired after serving 49 years practicing medicine in Antigonish, serving patients at his family practice, serving as Medical Examiner for 25 years and served as head of Emergency Care for the former Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority (GASHA).

KEPTIN CHIEF GERALD B. TONEY

Nova Scotia

Elected as Chief of Annapolis Valley First Nation in 2015, he formerly served as council member for a combined six years. He has served as Keptin of the Grand Council since 2019. Chief Toney is currently the Co-Lead of the Fisheries and Natural Resources Portfolios with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs.

DR. RONGO H. WETERE

Ontario

Dr. Wetera is of Ngāti Maniapoto descent, is one of the founders of the Te Wananga o Aotearoa (TWOA) tertiary institution in New Zealand. He was previously chair of the Māori Employment and Training Commission. Since moving to Canada, he has focused his efforts on revitalizing Indigenous languages and improving literacy and numeracy amongst Indigenous Canadians.

ELDER DR. CALVIN WHITE

Newfoundland

Dr. White is a former Chief of Flat Bay Band, former president of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians. He has spent over 50 years advocating for Indigenous recognition and rights in Newfoundland and Labrador. He is a current member of the Knowledge Keepers Council for the Assembly of First Nations.

MR. BRUCE H. WILDSMITH, K.C.

Nova Scotia

Mr. Wildsmith served as legal counsel with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs and the Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office and as lead negotiator for the Assembly. A former law professor at Dalhousie University, since 1974, he has advocated for Indigenous rights in a number of Supreme Court cases, including *Simon v. The Queen* in 1985.

MR. TUMA YOUNG, K.C.

Nova Scotia

Mr. Young was called to the bar in 2001, he is the first Mi'kmaw-speaking lawyer in Nova Scotia. In 2021, Mr. Young became the first Indigenous and openly 2SLGBTQ+ President of the Nova Scotia Barrister's Society. Mr. Young teaches Mi'kmaq Studies at Cape Breton University and is co-founder of the Wabanaki Two Spirit Alliance.

DR. SAKEJ YOUNGBLOOD HENDERSON

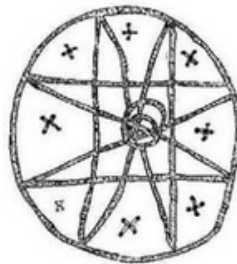
Nova Scotia

Dr. Henderson has worked to protect Indigenous heritage and culture through legal means. He has taught law at Universities, and at other North American law schools. Throughout his career, he has authored many legal documents, novels, articles and other works focused on Indigenous heritage, culture, and legal rights, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

MR. ERIC ZSCHEILE

Nova Scotia

Mr. Zscheile served as one of Donald Marshall Junior's lawyers in the historic Marshall case over 25 years ago. Currently, he works as a lawyer for the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative, a group that represents the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs at the negotiation table.



In my role as Senator, I always try to ensure that my work reflects not only my role but my identity as a proud Mi'kmaq. The Senate Emblem is shrouded in the Grand Council Flag as a symbol of this duality and overall approach.



This Mi'kmaq petroglyph represents an energetic structure that seeks to balance the seen and unseen forces in the natural world.



The Canadian emblem for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III was created to mark the first crowning of a Canadian monarch in 7 decades, a historic occasion.



Birch bark reminds us to respect and celebrate life and the gifts we receive from the natural world.

MSIT NO'KMAQ

"All My Relations" acknowledges our sacred identity and relationship to spirit and the natural world.



WINNER: GRADES K-7

"Apple Tree in the Wind"

Jax, Age 11

Annapolis Valley First Nation



CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"Cozy River"
Elijah, Age 12
Esgenoôpetitj



CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"Lily Flower"
Lilly, Age 11
Esgenoôpetitj



CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"Bee at Christmas"
Drew, Age 8
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation



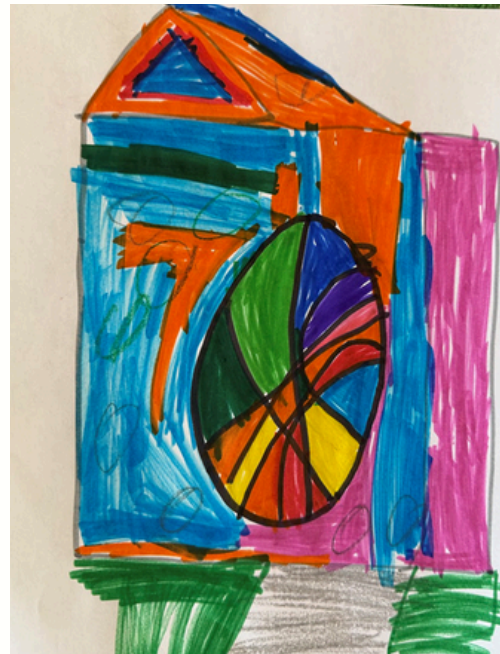
CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"Christmas Tree"
Dallas, Age 7
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation



CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"Bee at Christmas"
Drew, Age 8
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation



CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"Easter"
Jake, Age 7
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation



CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"Snow Day"
Justine, Age 7
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation



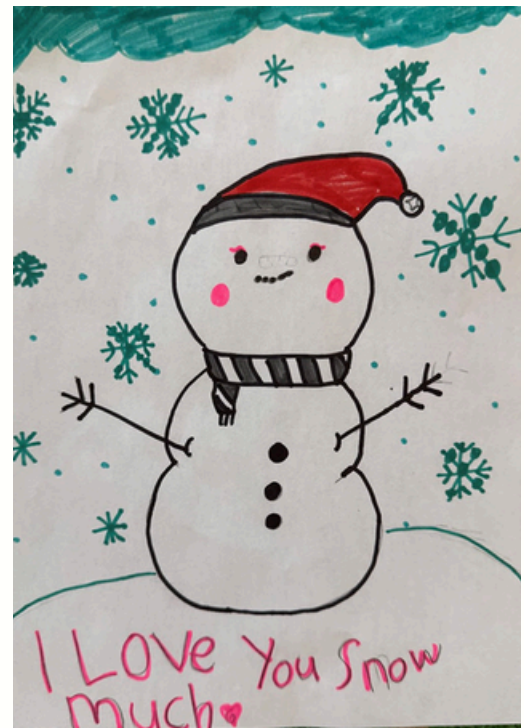
CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"Dog Playing at Christmas"
Adrianne, Age 9
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation



CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"Squirrel Mayhem"
Oliver, Age 9
Annapolis Valley First Nation



CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"Snowman"
Nevaeh, Age 8
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation



CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"Snowbell"
Nevaeh, Age 8
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation



CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"Christmas Tree"
Riley, Age 8
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation



CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"Grinch Stole Christmas"
Rylan, Age 8
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation



CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"Honey Bee"
Timika, Age 8
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation



CATEGORY: GRADES K-7

"A Beary Christmas"
Zoey, Age 7
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation



WINNER: GRADES 8-12

"Guiding Light"

Skyla, Age 14

Membertou First Nation



CATEGORY: GRADES 8-12

"Clay representations of thoughts and feelings"

Marley, Age 14

We'koqma'q First Nation



CATEGORY: GRADES 8-12

"Moonlight Prayer"

Aqua, Age 14

We'koqma'q First Nation