



UNION  
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MI'KMAQ

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### **Big News from Mi'kmaw Ethics Watch**

We're excited to announce a new chapter for Mi'kmaw Ethics Watch (MEW) as we enter our 25th year of ensuring ethical, fair, and culturally respectful research within Mi'kmaw communities! We want to extend our deepest gratitude to Cape Breton University for stewarding MEW for the past 24 years and to the dedicated volunteer reviewers who contributed their time and knowledge to support this important work.

As of February 3, 2025, MEW has officially found its new home with the Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq (UNSM)! This transition marks a historic return of MEW to the Mi'kmaq people, reinforcing our ongoing commitment to protecting Mi'kmaw knowledge and research. Moving forward, all researchers – no matter their affiliation – must have their research proposals reviewed by MEW before conducting research with Mi'kmaw communities or on Mi'kmaw knowledge or treaty rights.

Founded in 2000 by the Sante' Mawio'mi (Grand Council), MEW has played a pivotal role in safeguarding Mi'kmaw traditional knowledge and people in research. The name *Eskinuapimk*, originates from the Grand Council's responsibility for overseeing the Council Wigwam, embodying our core mission: providing careful, thoughtful oversight of research involving Mi'kmaw communities.

This milestone also signifies the strength and growing self-governance of Mi'kmaw people in research and data sovereignty. MEW will now be part of the Data Governance team at the UNSM (formerly known as the Information Governance & Data Projects or IGDP), overseeing the implementation of OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession) principles to ensure that all research with Mi'kmaw communities aligns with the highest ethical standards.

There's even more exciting news to share! As we celebrate MEW's 25th anniversary, we're excited to announce that Zabrina Downton has transitioned from her role as MEW's administrator to Program Coordinator. With a full team now supporting MEW, we are ready to achieve greater efficiency, visibility and impact in our work.

Please join us in welcoming Zabrina into her new role as we look forward to this exciting future!



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This new chapter at the UNSM marks a significant step forward in our commitment to research and data sovereignty for the Mi'kmaq people. We're more determined than ever to ensure Mi'kmaw knowledge and rights are protected and respected in all research endeavors.

**For more information, please contact:**

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