



UNION
OF NOVA
SCOTIA
MI'KMAQ

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/NIPK 2024



PJILA'SI - WELCOME

We're excited to bring you the latest edition of the Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq (UNSM) Quarterly Newsletter – your go-to source for what's been happening at the UNSM and our member communities. As we embark on another exciting quarter, we're excited to share with you a curated selection of topics, updates and events that we believe will inform, inspire and entertain you.

This edition will encompass the developments from mid-March to mid-June.

The next edition will be published in September 2024.

IN THIS EDITION:

Board of Directors • Statement on the Maltreatment of Mi'kmaq by DFO Officers • Jordan's Principle Unama'ki • Upcoming Reminders

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HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM



UNION
OF NOVA
SCOTIA
MI'KMAQ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq's Board of Directors consists of the Chiefs from Nova Scotia's First Nation communities that are part of the association. Currently, UNSM has affiliations with five (5) out of the 13 Mi'kmaq communities. The combined population of these communities represents around 60 percent of Nova Scotia's registered Indian population.



CHIEF LEROY DENNY
ESKASONI



CHIEF TERRANCE J. PAUL
MEMBERTOU



CHIEF WILBERT MARSHALL
POTLOTEK



CHIEF NORMAN BERNARD
WAGMATCOOK



**INTERIM CHIEF
JOHN L. BERNARD**
WE'KOQMA'Q



STARR PAUL
ESKASONI - COUNCILLOR



JOHN FRANK TONEY
ESKASONI - COUNCILLOR



KJI KEPTIN ANTLE DENNY
MI'KMAQ GRAND COUNCIL



**UNAMA'KI DISTRICT CHIEF
ALEX CHRISTMAS**



CHIEF ANDREA PAUL
PICTOU / REGIONAL CHIEF



**KJI SAQAMAQ
NORMAN SYLLIBOY**
MI'KMAQ GRAND COUNCIL

MARCH 2024

NATION REBUILDING GATHERING

On March 27th, the Capacity Development team held its 2nd Nation Rebuilding Gathering – Phase II (Unama’ki) in Membertou. This one-day leadership event covered topics such as a project recap, the legal and historical context of Nation Rebuilding, research report findings, and leadership discussion sessions.

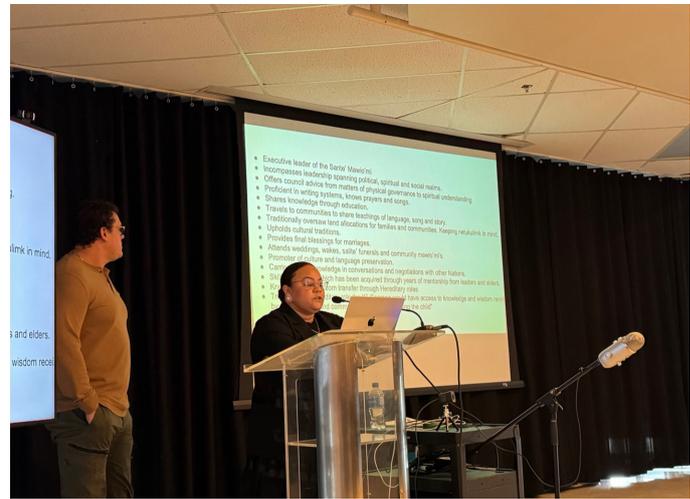
Attendees included Unama’ki Chiefs and Councillors, Unama’ki District Grand Council members, District Chief Alex Christmas, Senator PJ Prosper, Honorable Dan Christmas, Shelly Martin of the Confederacy of Mainland Mi’kmaq and the UNSM staff. At the request of the Grand Council executives, Sa’kej Henderson served as the keynote speaker, presenting on the Legal and Historical Context of Nation Rebuilding in his capacity as their legal advisor.



(Pictured above: Sakej Henderson, Legal Advisor for the Mi’kmaq Grand Council.)

The research report, *Sante’ Mawio’mi*, was presented by Semise’l San and Ramona Morris. They shared findings based on interviews with elders from Unama’ki

communities, using oral history to gather knowledge about the Sante’ Mawio’mi. This report focuses on the Unama’ki District of the Sante’ Mawio’mi, also known as the Mi’kmaq Grand Council.



(Pictured above: Researchers; Semise’l San & Ramona Morris)

With the assistance of the Capacity Development Planning Team, we facilitated leadership sessions based on the CFNG’s Five Pillars of Effective Governance: *People, Land, Laws & Jurisdiction, Governing Systems and Resources.*



Pictured above: Capacity Development Team.

(L-R:) Gage Sabattis, Kim Milley, Joan Stevens, Robin Thompson, Levi Francis, Wasuek Googoo, Camryn Sock, Shenayah Gould and Morgan Metallic.

Bottom (L-R): Susy Denny, Kennedy Marshall, and Julia Witmer.

APRIL 2024

NOVA SCOTIA ALLOCATES \$10 MILLION TO COMBAT FOOD INSECURITY

On April 12th, it was announced that the Province of Nova Scotia provided \$25,000 in funding to the Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq for arranging a gathering at Kejimikujik National Park scheduled for late August. The objective is to unite participants involved in food-related projects spanning the 13 communities.

The Province of Nova Scotia has allocated \$10 million in funding to support community organizations addressing food insecurity. These organizations offer various services such as providing locally produced food, running hamper and nutrition programs, and promoting food literacy. Minister Brendan Maguire emphasizes the importance of ensuring these organizations have the resources to support people at the local level.

A total of 122 organizations have received one-time funding support for initiatives like food literacy programs in libraries, collaborative food networks, and culturally relevant food support for Mi'kmaq communities. Funding was distributed based on applications to programs supported by the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage.

ESKASONI AND NOVA SCOTIA CELEBRATE OPENING OF NEW LONG-TERM CARE HOME



On April 17th, Eskasoni First Nation celebrated the grand opening of Kiknu, marking a significant milestone for the community.

Mi'kmaw elders and seniors across the province now have access to long-term care within a Mi'kmaw community.

Kiknu, meaning "our home" in Mi'kmaw, is a new 48-room facility in Eskasoni and the first of its kind in the province to be built within a First Nations community. The home is deeply rooted in Mi'kmaw culture, reflected in its turtle-shaped design symbolizing Turtle Island, the Indigenous name for North America.

The building's central gathering space features seven poles representing the Mi'kmaw districts and the seven sacred teachings of the Mi'kmaq, alongside a graphical representation of a healing circle for traditional ceremonies. The design and operations were shaped by extensive consultations with community elders.

Congratulations to the community of Eskasoni! May this achievement pave the way for a future filled with success and prosperity.

Statement on the Maltreatment of Mi'kmaq by DFO Officers

April 17, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Three weeks ago, two young Mi'kmaq fishers were detained by DFO officers, their phones and shoes confiscated. They were made to walk some distance in the dark, with only shirts wrapped around their feet to protect them from the elements. I drew attention to this inhumane treatment during Question Period in the Senate on April 9, 2024.

This past weekend, Sipekne'katik community member James WS Nevin reported that he was brutally attacked and maced by DFO officers for suspicious activity. He had not been fishing, was maced, tackled to the ground and had his hands bound by zipties. All without any evidence of wrongdoing.

This cannot continue to happen.

DFO officers are peace officers, whose mandate, per the DFO website, includes a directive to, "collect evidence of illegal activity during routine patrols and special investigations to use in court." They are meant to negotiate with suspected illegal fishers and the suitability requirements include the ability to "confront and de-escalate situations before the use of force is necessary". This is not happening.

In 2019, the DFO-Coast Guard Reconciliation Strategy was released and it clearly states a commitment to,

Recognize and implement Indigenous and treaty rights related to fisheries, oceans, aquatic habitat, and marine waterways in a manner consistent with section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the federal Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples

25 years after the landmark *Marshall* decision, this is not happening in Nova Scotia.

A public investigation is a start, but it is not enough. No Canadian citizen deserves to be treated this way. In order to avoid further incidents or any escalation in public frustration over these acts of mistreatment and abuse of power, we must restore peace between the DFO and community members.

That is why I am calling on DFO to:

- Immediately place the DFO officers involved on administrative leave pending a full investigation;
- Initiate mandatory training on appropriate use of force, investigative approaches, and de-escalation techniques;
- Initiate a third-party, independent review with Mi'kmaq involvement into the conduct of officers involved in both instances; and
- To use the Senate recommendations in their report, *Peace on the Water*, as a pathway to the appropriate co-management of the fisheries in Nova Scotia.

I believe that there is a peaceful path forward, but that we cannot begin down that road until we resolve the growing mistrust between Mi'kmaq and DFO.

Quick Links:

- Sen. Prosper's QP Intervention, April 9, 2024 - https://sencanada.ca/en/content/sen/chamber/441/debates/189db_2024-04-09-e#38
- "Become a Fishery Officer" - <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/career-carriere/fishery-officers-agents-des-peches/index-eng.htm>
- DFO-Coast Guard Reconciliation Strategy - <https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/library-bibliotheque/40947208.pdf>
- *Peace on the Water* - <https://sencanada.ca/en/info-page/parl-44-1/pofo-peace-on-the-water-advancing-the-full-implementation-of-mi-kmaq-wolastogiyik-and-peskotomuhkati-rights-based-fisheries/>
- The *Marshall* decisions - <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/aboriginal-autochtones/moderate-livelihood-subsistance-convenable/marshall-overview-aperçu-eng.html>

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THE UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MI'KMAQ 2nd ANNUAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL BUILDING CONFERENCE

The UNSM's 2nd Annual Infrastructure and Capital Building Conference was held at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre on April 30th. The event started with registration and refreshments, followed by inspiring opening remarks from Wasuek Googoo.

The morning featured updates on the UNSM Infrastructure Project and an insightful presentation by North Shore on Maintenance Management. Attendees then participated in two breakout sessions: one on strategic planning for organizational effectiveness and another on ArcGIS training for UNSM technicians.

After lunch, Migmagi project managers shared project insights, followed by a detailed session from the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq on Maintenance Management. The day concluded with the distribution of door prizes, a preview of upcoming projects, and closing remarks summarizing the key takeaways.



DID YOU KNOW?

Unama'ki has our very own Emergency Alert System.

Update your information to receive alerts for missing persons, severe weather, boil water orders, road closures and more!

Register yourself or someone you love by visiting the link: https://form.jotform.com/202235425818049?fbclid=IwAR2zr-QP7lutq-yW2PbkHydSQ3_qSppqEeTj8nzPH-KYu7xwQ5oB2SQV3UUQ

MAY 2024

CHIEF ANNIE BERNARD-DAISLEY OF WE'KOQMA'Q ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

On May 3rd, Chief Annie Bernard-Daisley has resigned from her role as Chief of We'koqma'q First Nation.

When elected as Chief of We'koqma'q in 2020, Chief Bernard-Daisley became the first female Chief of her community. Prior to that, she had served three terms as a Councillor in We'koqma'q and as President of the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association.

In October 2020, she was also elected as Co-Chair of the Assembly, representing the Unama'ki communities. Additionally, she held the positions of Co-Lead for the Assembly portfolios of Justice and Children, Youth, Families, and Gender Diversity, and sat on the Board of Directors for the Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.

With heartfelt admiration and respect, we extend our gratitude for Chief Annie's leadership. Councillor John Leonard Bernard has been appointed Interim Chief, and we appreciate his willingness to serve.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

National Nurses Week was celebrated from May 6th to May 12th.

Here at the UNSM, we want to give a special shoutout to Beverly Madill, our Home

& Community Care Coordinator. Your dedication and hard work make a real difference in our community.

To all the incredible nurses out there: thank you! Your commitment, tireless effort, and endless compassion make the world a better place. We are forever grateful for everything you do.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE: NOVA SCOTIANS HONOURED WITH KING CHARLES III CORONATION MEDAL

On May 6th, Grand Chief Norman Sylliboy of Eskasoni, Grand Keptin Antle Denny of Eskasoni, and Alan Syliboy of Millbrook were awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of their service to Nova Scotia and Canada. The medals were presented during the inaugural investiture ceremony at Government House in Halifax.

The recipients represent a broad cross-section of Nova Scotians who have made notable contributions to Canada, the province and/or their communities. The medal program was established by the Government of Canada in May 2023, with the support of the King, and is administered by the Chancellery of Honours on behalf of the governor general.

The medal recipients are:

- Scott Baker, Halifax
- Marie Bourinot, Eastern Passage
- Johnny Butler, Shelburne
- Angus (Gus) Cameron, Halifax
- Sharon Davis-Murdoch, Dartmouth
- Grand Keptin Antle Denny, Eskasoni

- Cpl. Erin Dillon, Dartmouth
- Capt. Paul Edwards, Halifax
- Warrant Officer Pamela M. Evans, Beaver Bank
- Gina Haverstock, Wolfville
- Dr. Ahmad Hussein, Halifax
- Christine Igot, Annapolis Royal
- Dr. David Kogon, Mayor, Amherst
- Rear Admiral M.T.J. Kurtz, Halifax
- Maurice Lelièvre, Grand Étang
- Bonny MacIsaac, Warden, Inverness
- Dr. Heather Mackinnon, retired lieutenant-commander, Chester
- Cassidy Megan, Halifax
- Deanna Lynn Mohamed, New Glasgow
- Késa Munroe-Anderson, Halifax
- Christopher Ross, Shelburne
- Yvon Samson, Petit-de-Grat
- Dr. Robert Strang, Fall River
- Alan Syliboy, Millbrook
- Grand Chief Norman Sylliboy, Eskasoni
- Tom Urbaniak, Sydney
- Cpl. Christopher M. Wade, Bridgetown
- Shimon Walt, Halifax

Congratulations to all!

UNSM STAFF APPRECIATION DAY



On May 10th, UNSM surprised our hard-working team with treats and special gifts as

a token of our appreciation. It was wonderful to see everyone come together, socialize, and enjoy some well-deserved relaxation time.

We love celebrating our incredible staff! Thank you to all our amazing team members for everything you do. Teamwork makes the dream work.

A huge shoutout to Cheesin' with Jen for the wonderful charcuterie boxes and Cara MacLellan from Sugar on Top for the delicious candy apples and cookies!



(Pictured above: Jewl Stevens proudly shows off her new UNSM jacket.)

JOURNEY OF UNDERSTANDING: SENATOR PJ PROSPER'S MI'KMA'KI TOUR

Senator Paul "PJ" Prosper conducted a four-week tour of Mi'kma'ki during Senate non-sitting periods and engaged with community members, including Chiefs, councils, elders, youth, and Indigenous organizations, to understand their priorities and issues. The insights gathered informed a report to guide his Senate work.

The Mi'kma'ki Tour 2024 started in Newfoundland and PEI from February 16th-21st, continued in mainland Nova Scotia from March 5th-11th, covered Gaspé and New Brunswick from April 1st-5th, and concluded in Cape Breton from May 13th-17th.

(CONTINUED...)

JOURNEY OF UNDERSTANDING: SENATOR PJ PROSPER'S MI'KMA'KI TOUR

(CONTINUED...)



On May 14th, Senator Prosper and his dedicated team met with the UNSM's Capacity Development Team and Executive Director Douglas Brown to discuss ongoing projects. The meeting was highly informative, covering a wide range of topics, and we are excited about the future developments.

IDGP TEAM AND THUNDERBIRD FOUNDATION'S EPIGENETICS TRAINING IN PICTOU LANDING



Our Information Governance & Data Projects (IGDP) team, along with the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation visited Pictou Landing First Nation and had the privilege of delivering a three-day training session titled, "Indigenous Knowledge and Epigenetics: Creating Ethical Space for Mi'kmaq-Led Genetic, Epigenetic, and Other Biological Research in Nova Scotia" during the May 24th-26th weekend.

This initiative aims to build capacity and

create an ethical space for Mi'kmaq-led biological research, integrating traditional knowledge and lived experience.

MENTAL WELLNESS TEAM CELEBRATES MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Throughout the year, the Mental Wellness Team plays a vital role in supporting our communities. They have been a great source of support for all five communities in Unama'ki, as well as Paqtnekek, especially during their most vulnerable times.



In May and June, the Mental Wellness Team embarked on a mission to visit all five communities, along with Paqtnekek, to raise awareness for Mental Health Month. These visits featured an array of offerings, including food and refreshments, engaging games and activities, face painting, complimentary haircuts, access to mental health resources, and various other services tailored to attendees' needs.

The Mental Wellness Day events were a great success, and we we're looking forward to hosting them again next year.

JUNE 2024

June marks National Indigenous History Month and Pride Month.

It's a time to celebrate and honour the rich traditions, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous peoples, as well as to advocate for and support the diverse 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Through education, acknowledgment, and active participation, we can make positive strides towards equality and inclusivity for all.

TRIPARTITE FORUM: ALL MI'KMAW MEMBERS MEETING AND WORKING DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS



The Tripartite Forum held an All-Mi'kmaq Members meeting, following a productive Working Development Session at the Inverary Inn in Baddeck from June 5th to June 7th.

Camryn and Maisyn Sock served as the MCs, with Heidi Weigand as the facilitator and the Tripartite Forum Secretariat staff providing support throughout the three-day event.

The conference was a success, as all working committees actively participated in discussions, established connections with other committees and laid the foundation for future projects and collaborative problem-solving initiatives.



(Pictured above: Secretariat Staff [L-R] Jessica Christmas, Sam MacDonald, Jewl Stevens, Sam Trites, Brad Sullivan and Chloe Faulkner.)

The Tripartite Forum is looking forward to the next Working Development Session in 2025!

For further details about the Tripartite Forum, please visit:
www.tripartiteforum.ca

STAFF APPRECIATION DAY: BOWLING FUN AT LANES AT MEMBERTOU



(Pictured above: Crystal Bernard, Jeanine Paul, Hilda Googoo, Jill Googoo and Danielle Paul)

Following a demanding week, UNSM recognized the importance of providing our hardworking staff with a well-deserved break.

On June 7th, our exceptional UNSM team indulged in some rejuvenating bowling fun at Lanes at Membertou.

A special shoutout to Kelly's Angels for their outstanding performance, achieving an impressive score of 381. We extend our gratitude to the dedicated staff at Lanes for their exceptional service!

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE UNAMA'KI

This quarter marked the opening of our new office at the Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage Centre, extending our presence to all five of our First Nation Communities!

Join us in welcoming our newest team members:

KAREN GOOGOO, SERVICE COORDINATOR ASSISTANT



Karen married Peter Googoo from Wagmatcook 36 years ago. Together, they have two children and six grandchildren, aged between four and sixteen years.

Karen grew up on Hunters Mountain with her two brothers, sister, parents and grandparents. She attended Middle River School until grade eight, then transferred to Baddeck Academy.

Later in life, Karen returned to school to obtain her Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) certification and worked in that role for 30 years at Wagmatcook Health Center. She is currently serving as Wagmatcook's Service Coordinator Assistant for Jordan's Principle.

Karen enjoys camping, sitting around campfires, singing and chatting, playing washer toss, and sharing great laughs with her friends. She loves attending powwows and watching her children and grandchildren dance, a passion of hers. Additionally, she has learned to bead earrings and make ribbon skirts. Karen is an easygoing person who enjoys joking around and having fun.

EMAIL: karengoogoo@unsm.org
PHONE: 902-919-4532

NEILENE PECK SERVICE COORDINATOR ASSISTANT



Neilene became a Service Coordinator Assistant for Wagmatcook's Jordan's Principle in March 2024. She holds an Early Childhood Education (ECE) degree and worked as a Mi'kmaq Head Start Coordinator for 17 years. Later, she transitioned to a role at the school, creating materials for teachers in Mi'kmaw and serving as the culture teacher for Wagmatcookewey School.

A lifelong child advocate, Neilene is especially vocal about Autism Awareness. She finds working for Jordan's Principle deeply satisfying, as it ensures that parents and children in each community have the support they need. She believes that everyone deserves to feel loved and comforted, and Jordan's Principle provides that essential support.

Neilene currently lives in Wagmatcook but grew up in We'koqma'q, Membertou and Eskasoni. She has attended the Mission in Potlotek every year since she can remember. Neilene has a 17-year-old son with Autism, Bison, and a 14-year-old daughter, Jaylene, who is an artist. They also have three dogs and two cats.

Neilene considers herself a jack of all trades and takes pride in her clans, the Spider and Bee-aq. She loves to gamble, draw, create, dance, collect Mi'kmaq earrings, talk and swim.

EMAIL: neilenepeck@unsm.org
PHONE: 902-919-4835

UPGRADES TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES

We now offer direct deposit and a digital intake form for the convenience of our Jordan's Principle clients and their families.

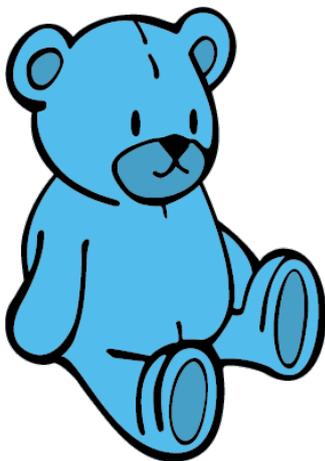
PRESENTATIONS

Jordan's Principle Unama'ki spreads awareness by giving presentations about their services, the communities they serve, and what happens after aging out. The Cultural Support team facilitated a medicine pouch-making class with ECE students at NSCC, presented to an ECE class at NSCC, spoke at a Band Designate Gathering, and hosted an information booth at Wellness Days in the five Unama'ki communities.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Jordan's Principle Unama'ki is in the process of hiring two additional staff members: one for the Cultural Support team and a Transition Coordinator to help youth transitioning out of Jordan's Principle services.

BEAR WITNESS DAY CONTEST



On May 10th, all five communities participated in a bear coloring contest in honor of Bear Witness Day, an annual observance dedicated to Jordan's Principle. This principle ensures that First Nations children have equitable access to social, health, and educational services, consistent with standards provided to other Canadian children. Each winner received a family night of bowling at Lanes at Membertou and a gas card.

WINNERS:

- Wagmatcook: Emery Isadore (Grade 6)
- We'koqma'q: Jerrica B (Grade 3)
- Potlotek: Richard (Grade 4)
- Membertou: Audrey Paul

We want to thank everyone who participated. Congratulations to our winners!

EKWITAMEMK 2024



Jordan's Principle Unama'ki's cultural team hosted the Ekwitamemk (Traditional Fish Camp) from June 13 to June 15 in Cheticamp, in partnership with Parks Canada.

The camp welcomed 15 participants aged 10 to 15, who learned traditional fishing methods, preparation techniques, water safety and canoeing skills. Staff from UINR attended and educated the children about conservation and fish identification.

Each day concluded with storytelling, medicine pouch making and an opportunity for the children to participate in a sweat lodge ceremony.

Campers stayed in tipis and had ongoing opportunities to learn from Elders, Land Guardians and other knowledge holders on site.

The event was a success. Congratulations to all staff who made this dream a reality. We look forward to the growth and continuation of this camp for our youth, as it is invaluable.

CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR FOR ALL



The Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq would like to congratulate staff, students, and facility members throughout Unama'ki for another successful school year.

Have a well-deserved and safe summer break!

ANNUAL SUMMER SHUTDOWN

All UNSM offices will be closing on July 25th at 1:30 PM for the annual summer shutdown. We will reopen on Thursday, August 15th to regular hours of operation.

Have a safe and happy Summer!



JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE UNAMA'KI REIMBURSEMENT FORM SCHEDULE 2024

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>
June/July	Last week of June
August	Last week of August
September	Last week of September
October	Last week of October
November	Last week of November
December	First week of January 2025

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

UNSM is hiring for the following positions:

- GIS/Asset Manager Technic
- Outreach Coordinator
- Policy Analyst
- Community Food Project Coordinator
- Diabetes Community Consultant

For a full job description, SCAN our QR code and apply on Bamboo:

