



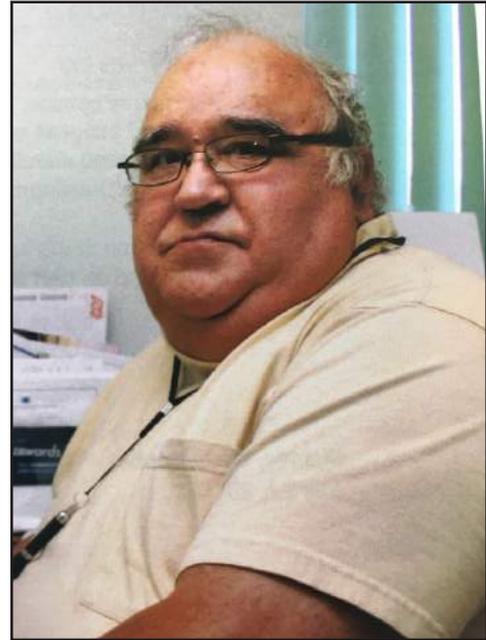
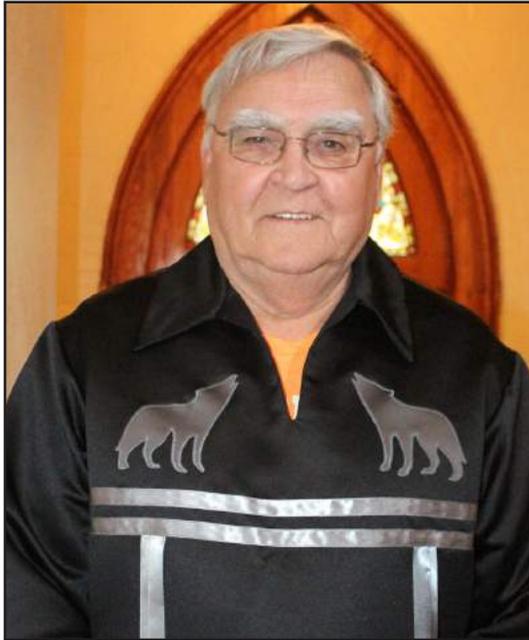
UNION OF NOVA
SCOTIA INDIANS

2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT

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WELA'LIN, CARL AND JOE B!



The Union of Nova Scotia Indians dedicates this annual report to Joe B Marshall and Carl Gould.

Our staff wish to personally thank and congratulate both for their many years of service to the Union of Nova Scotia Indians. They both have played major roles in the start-up of the organization. Not only have we enjoyed working with them, we also enjoyed learning about our valuable Mi'kmaq history. We consider you not only a valuable asset to the organization but true leaders in our communities.

Both your hard work and diligence shows how greatly the UNSI has benefited, especially when it comes to well-being and advocacy of our Mi'kmaq people. Your contributions to help advocate and fight for the rights of our people will be sorely missed.

Both Joe B and Carl have always instilled in their staff, leadership, compassion, understanding and most importantly the need to stand up for the rights of our people. There are no other leaders who could have done it the way you both have. You have taught us the importance of working collaboratively as a team. We certainly hope that the remaining employees here will strive to follow your impressive example

While you are missed by all of us at the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, you certainly deserve your retirement. It has always been a pleasure to work with you both. We are deeply saddened to see you go but are confident that you will find the same success and happiness in your retirement. We wish you all the best!!

Yours in Recognition of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, Douglas Brown, as the new Executive Director of the Union of Nova Scotia Indians (UNSI). I am deeply honoured to step into this important role, and anxious to create an organization that successfully meets the ever changing needs, and addresses the contemporary concerns, of each of our member bands.

Before continuing, I must acknowledge and thank some important people in my life: my wife Chelsea from Eskasoni; my mother, Katlin “Soda” Sorbey, of Membertou; my late father, Doug Brown, from Boston; my sisters Donna, from Membertou, and and Madonna Johnson, a talented Mi’kmaq artist from Eskasoni. In my roles, I draw inspiration from my son, Clifton Cremo, of Eskasoni, and of course

my late uncle, Kji Keptin Alex Denny. My Mother and her brother Uncle Alex were activists for the rights of our people. In my role as Executive Director, I see myself as continuing the activism I learned from both of them.

After serving four years in the US Army Infantry (1983-1987), I moved to Membertou and began another four years attaining my undergraduate B.A. specializing in Mi’kmaq studies, history and sociology (1988-1992). There I was influenced and inspired by Elders and Professors Murdena Marshall, Sister Dorothy Moore, Sa’kej Henderson, Joe B. Marshall, Patrick and Eleanor Johnson as well as other Mi’kmaq students I met along the way. I learned our Mi’kmaq history and the continuous struggle for justice and recognition of our aboriginal and treaty rights.

With the inspiration I acquired at Cape Breton University, I attended Dalhousie Law School through the Indigenous Black and Mi’kmaq access program. I articulated with the Nova Scotia Department of Justice for one year, and was then called to the bar in October 1997. In May 1998, I was hired by the Union of Nova Scotia Indians as legal counsel, specializing in Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution Act - Aboriginal and treaty rights. I was very fortunate to be mentored by perhaps the best constitutional law lawyer in all of Eastern Canada – Bruce Wildsmith. My work still includes two of these cases; one involving hunting for food, the other involving fishing for

food. Both cases are over 10-years-old, and are at the appeal level.

I continue these cases pro-bono.

UNSI has a long history of advocating and litigating for Aboriginal and treaty rights. The establishment of the Made in Nova Scotia Process saw Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO) assume the advocacy and negotiation roles relating to Aboriginal and treaty rights. This shift presents a great opportunity for UNSI to focus on providing new and innovative governance capacity services to our member bands. However, during this transition, one of my present roles is ensuring that the extensive records of UNSI's treaty rights advocacy are preserved, organized, and archived for future reference for students, researchers, and historians. It is an important part of the legacy that is left to us, and our children, in order to understand the Union's struggles and successes over the past 47 years.

Under the Tribal Council Program, we aim to provide our member bands with modern governance knowledge, and best practices, that are tied specifically to Mi'kmaw traditions, protocols, practices, values and concepts. These initiatives involve research and innovative infusion into contemporary governance tools and practices. Our goal is that each community can further shape these governance templates and concepts towards their own unique needs, within a large field of governance activity at the Band level.

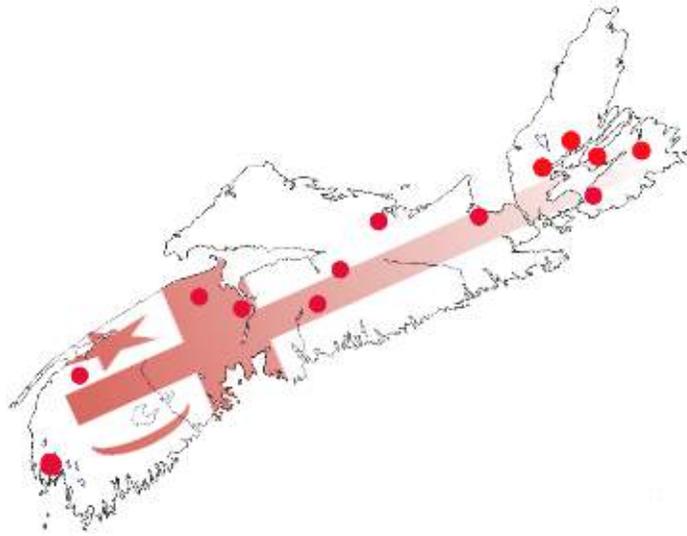
The Union of Nova Scotia Indians continues its task of restructuring and growth. We host a large Health Program as well as an ever-growing Information and Data Governance Program. We have recently hired new staff and are expanding our office space in Membertou. It is exciting and fast moving times for the UNSI organization but I feel up to the challenges that lie ahead and have complete faith that the UNSI staff that I work with are up to the task.

Wela'lin,

Douglas Brown,
UNSI Executive Director



UNSI MEMBER BANDS



Acadia

RR#4 Box 5914 C
Yarmouth, NS B5A 4A8
Phone: (902) 742-8854
Fax: (902) 742-8854

Chief Deborah Robinson

Darlene Coulton
Rachel Falls
Andrew Francis
Avis Johnson
Michael Paul
Thomas Pictou
Jeff Purdy
Charmaine Stevens

Membertou

111 Membertou Street
Membertou NS, B1S 2M9
Phone: (902) 564-6466
Fax: (902) 539-6649

Chief Terrance Paul

Craig Christmas
Dean Christmas
Gail Christmas
Robin Googoo
Lee Gould
Johanna LaPorte
David Marshall
Graham Marshall
Paul MacDonald
Allister Matthews
Cary Paul
Lawrence Paul

Wagmatcook

P.O. Box 30001
Wagmatcook, NS B0E 2N0
Phone: (902) 295-2598
Fax: (902) 295-3398

Chief Norman Bernard

Cornealia Peck
Lester Peck
Tommy Peck
Angela Pierro
Jason Pierro
Peter Pierro

Eskasoni

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Eskasoni, NS B1W 1A1
Phone: (902) 379-2800
Fax: (902) 379-2172

Chief Leroy Denny

Allan Jeddore
Barry Francis
Bertram Bernard
Brendon Poulette
Chris Stevens
Derek Johnson
Dion Denny
Eldon Gould
Gerald R. Francis
John Frank Toney
Leon Denny
Tom Ji'j Johnson

Potlotek

1204 Highway 4
Box 538
RR 1 St. Peter's NS B0E 3B0
Phone: (902) 535-3317
Fax: (902) 535-3004

Chief Wilbert Marshall

Anita Basque
Sandra Basque Johnson
Quentin Doucette
Jimmy Marshall
Jocelyn Marshall
Maynard Marshall
Blayne Murray

We'koma'q

P.O. Box 149
Whycocomagh, NS B0E 3M0
Phone: (902) 756-2337
Fax: (902) 756-2393

Chief Roderick Googoo

Stuart Basque
Cyrus Bernard
Jason Bernard
John Leonard Bernard
John W. Cremo
Annie Daisley
Steve Googoo
Anthony Phillips
Stanford Phillips

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



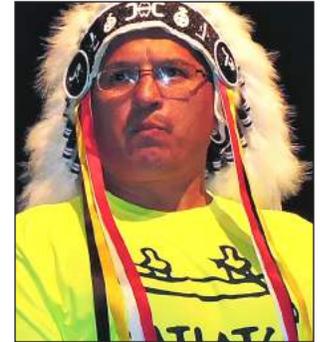
Chief Deborah Robinson
Acadia



Chief Leroy Denny
Eskasoni



Chief Terrance Paul
Membertou



Chief Wilbert Marshall
Potlotek



Chief Norman Bernard
Wagmatcook



Chief Roderick Googoo
We'komaq



District Chief
Alexander Christmas

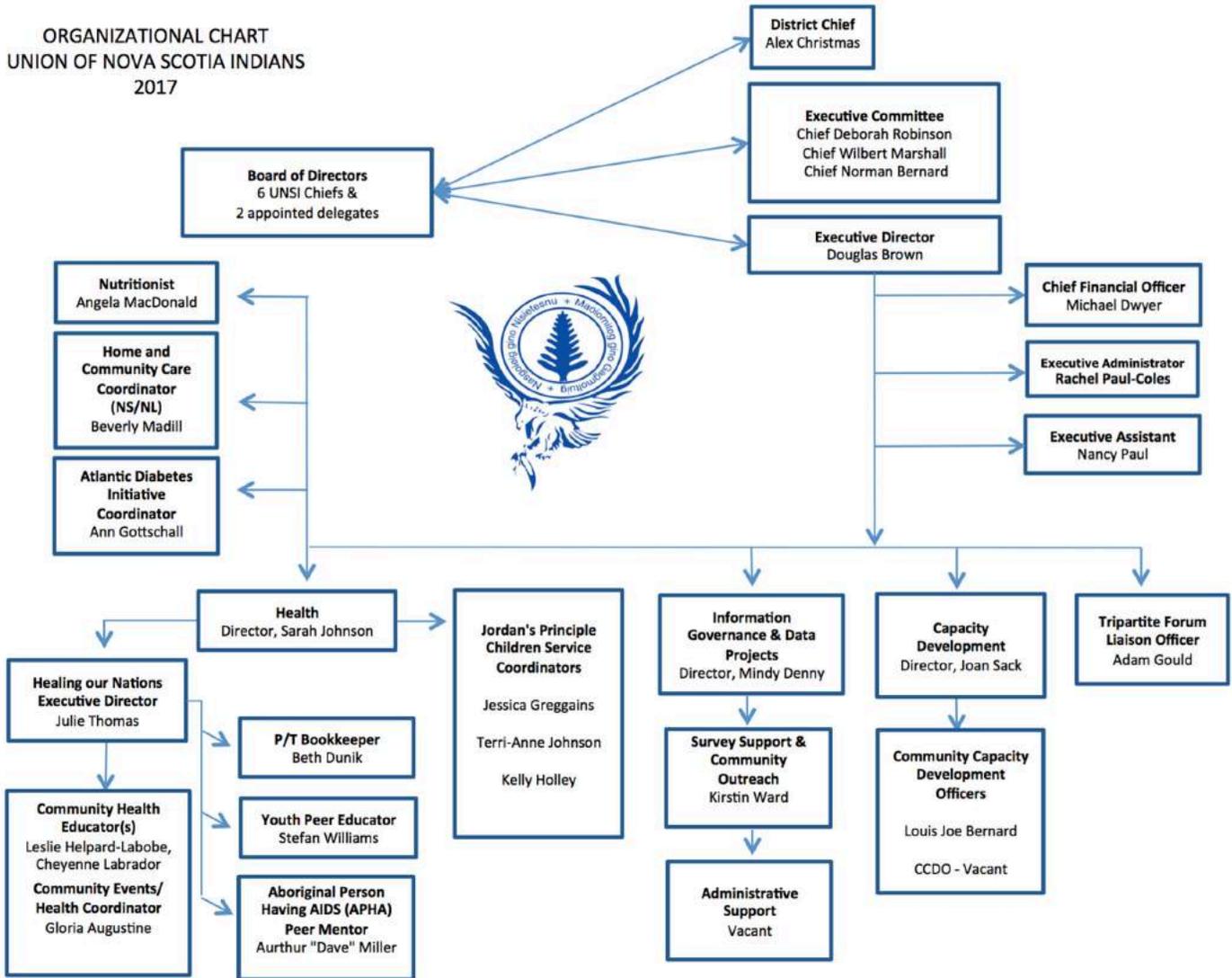


Kji Keptin Antle Denny
Mi'kmaw Grand Council



Kji Saqmaw Ben Sylliboy
Mi'kmaw Grand Council

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
 UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA INDIANS
 2017



MI'KMAQ-NOVASCOTIA-CANADA TRIPARTITE FORUM

An active member on Tripartite Forum's Steering Committee and Working Committees, the Liaison reports to the UNSI Board of Directors, coordinates participation of UNSI-appointed committee members and provides general support to the Forum

TRIPARTITE FORUM LIAISON OFFICER ACTIVITY – APRIL 1, 2016 TO MARCH 31, 2017

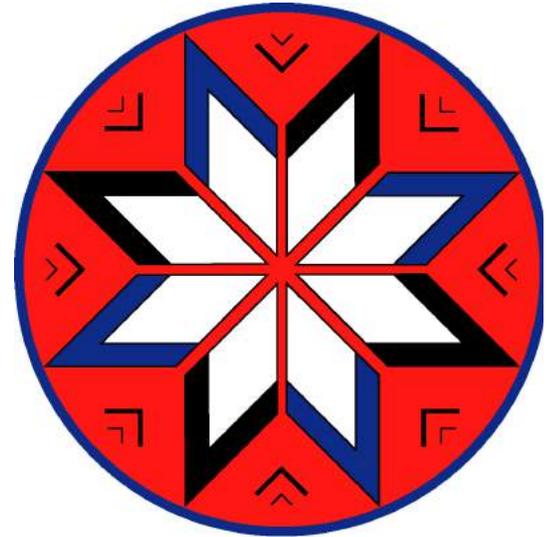
UNSI Meetings: Tripartite Forum Liaison Officer (TFLO) attends all UNSI Board of Directors meetings, reports ongoing work of the Tripartite Forum, and receive direction. As UNSI staff, TFLO attends all staff meetings and other mandatory gatherings as required.

- UNSI Board of Directors met on June 1, We'koqma'q; July 21, Millbrook; August 16, Membertou; September 15, Millbrook; October 19, Millbrook; and December 16, Dartmouth;
- UNSI Annual General Assembly, October 2, in Halifax.

Tripartite Forum Working Committees: TFLO attends Tripartite Forum Working Committee (WC) meetings, generally, to provide support as an active member of the Tripartite Forum. TFLO is required to attend every Economic Development Working Committee meeting specifically as Steering Rep and when required, alternate Steering rep for Health and Justice Working Committees. TFLO may be required to attend WC meetings as alternate UNSI rep for any UNSI rep unable to attend their respective WC meeting(s).

The Working Committees met on the following dates:

- Culture & Heritage: May 4, Potlotek; November 2, Louisburg; March 21-22, Millbrook;
- Economic Development: April 14, We'koqma'q; May 11, Acadia; October 24, Paqtnkek; November 15, Millbrook; January 26, Wagmatcook;
 - TFEDWC Co-Chairs Orientation Meeting: December 6, Halifax
- Education: June 3, Paqtnkek; August 25, Potlotek; November 24, Annapolis Valley; February 24, Eskasoni;



Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada
TRIPARTITE FORUM

- Health: May 26, Membertou; August 29, Potlotek; November 24, Glooscap; February 21, Millbrook;
- Justice: May 4, Halifax; August 17-18, Eskasoni;
- Social: May 24, Millbrook;
- Sports & Recreation: May 27, Wolfville; August 18, Membertou; November 3, Millbrook; January 30-31, Eskasoni.

Steering Committee: TFLO is an active member of the Tripartite Forum Steering Committee as Steering Committee rep on the Economic Development Working Committee and alternate rep on the Health and Justice Working Committee.

- Steering Committee met on the following dates: April 13, Millbrook; May 12-13, Membertou; June 17, Wagmatcook; August 24, Millbrook; September 28, Millbrook; October 19, Millbrook; November 18, Millbrook; March 29, Millbrook;
- Other activity: June 23, 2016, Millbrook for Mi'kmaw member gathering presentations.

TRC Subcommittee: At the February 17, 2016, Officials Committee meeting, an Officials subcommittee was formed to strategize how the Tripartite Forum can address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) 94 Calls to Action. The TRC subcommittee members identified were: Federal Steering Co-Chair (appointed by Regional Director General, INAC); Justin Houston, OAA (appointed by Deputy Minister, OAA); Chief Sidney Peters; Chief Rufus Copage; Chief Norman Bernard; Cheryl Maloney, President of NSNWA; and RC Morley Googoo, Executive Chair. TRC Sub-Committee met on the following dates:

- April 27, Dartmouth - TRC Sub-Committee directed the Steering Committee work with Working Committees to review the 94 Calls to Actions and how it pertains to their committees (what has been done, what can/cannot be done by TF) to hire a consultant/facilitator to coordinate a Symposium
- September 12, Millbrook - met with selected TRC Symposium facilitator Dan Christmas to discuss Symposium and develop an Action Plan
- November 30 - TRC Symposium agenda in draft form; new tentative dates chosen for Symposium are May 24, 25, and 26, 2017.

Special Meetings: Tripartite may hold special meetings outside of regular meetings. TFLO attended the following special meetings:

- Tripartite Forum Mi'kmaw member gathering, October 5, Membertou - A gathering of all Mi'kmaw working committee members and Mi'kmaw Officials committee members including all 13 Mi'kmaw Chiefs, and Mi'kmaw ex-officio members. The Mi'kmaw members of Steering provided presentations on committee membership, community engagement, and TRC Symposium update.
- Two Tripartite Forum Special Chiefs (Joint Board) Meetings on October 14, and November 2, both in Dartmouth, NS.

Executive Committee met on November 9, 2016, in Halifax. Minister Carolyn Bennett (Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada) attended, and Justin Houston (NS Office of Aboriginal Affairs) attended on behalf of Premier Stephen McNeil. The discussion focused mainly around a motion to review the Tripartite Forum. Minister Bennett provided updates to her national files.

Officials Committee was not scheduled during this period.

Co-Chairs Meeting was held on October 18, 2016 in Membertou. Dan Christmas facilitated a session with the Co-Chairs for their input on the TRC Calls to Action. The Steering Committee provided presentations on Working Committee exchange (highlights/best practices), community engagement, committee concerns, and communications update.

Working Development Session: No Working Development Sessions scheduled during this period.

Project Fund for Social & Economic Change: The Project Fund Committee meets quarterly to review project proposals, and consists of the three Steering Co-Chairs, and three Working Committee Co-Chairs (one Mi'kmaq, one Federal and one Provincial). The Project Fund Manager attends all meetings. TFLO is not part of the Project Fund Committee. The Project Committee met on the following dates:

- April 7; June 16; September 16; November 24, 2016. UNSI TFLO attended the November 24 meeting in Paqtnkek in place of Mi'kmaq Steering Co-Chair this one time only.

The following is a list of approved projects for 2016-17:

- NEEDS (Native Employment Economic Development Sustainable Network) #001 (Economic Development, \$26,279.24);
- Printing of Social Enterprise Tool Kit #002 (Economic Development, \$7,137);
- TRC Action Symposium #003 (Steering, \$69,827.33);
- Find My Talk Language Conference #004 (Education, \$50,000);
- Grand Pre Event #005 (Culture and Heritage, \$50,000);
- Mi'kmaq Language Tool Kit #007 (Culture and Heritage, \$8,348.80);
- Pardon's Guide #008 (Social, \$24,336.16);
- Action Plan Against Racism in Sport #009 (Sports and Recreation, \$12,530.47);
- Mi'kmaq Heritage Day Calendar Launch #010 (Education, \$26,200);
- Feasibility Study Translation and Interpretation Services #011 (Economic Development, \$22,847);
- Symposium on Long Term Care Facilities #012 (Economic Development, \$79,803).

For more information on the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum and to view the calendar of upcoming meetings and events, please visit the Tripartite Forum website at www.tripartiteforum.com. For any inquiries, please feel free to contact Adam Gould, Tripartite Forum Liaison Officer, at agould@unsi.ns.ca, or by phone at (902) 539-4107 or (902) 322-9965.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



RECENT HISTORY AND CHANGES TO THE TRIBAL COUNCIL PROGRAM AT UNSI

Before Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) amended the Tribal Council Program policy in 2014, UNSI offered advisory services to its member First Nations in four areas: Legal, Economic Development, Environment and Strategic Planning. In addition to significant funding cuts to the program, amendments required UNSI to focus solely on capacity development for its member bands. To adjust to these changes, the Tribal Council program at UNSI was restructured over three phases;

- 1) In April and May 2014, staff titles of the Tribal Council Program changed from “Advisor” to “Community Capacity Development Officer” (CCDO). With the overall objective of Capacity Development for member bands, activities focused on the same areas of Economic Development, Environment and Strategic Planning, with the addition of CCDO-Governance replacing the Legal Advisor role;
- 2) In June 2016, all activities across the four areas were merged under a single umbrella focused on capacity development. CCDOs began working together on capacity development activities with a team approach;
- 3) In May 2017, UNSI appointed a new director to manage the Tribal Council Program. The CCDO team became the Capacity Development department and staff titles changed to Capacity Development Coordinators, in addition to the new Director of Capacity Development. The focus remains on developing the capacity of member First Nations.

MANDATE OF UNSI TRIBAL COUNCIL PROGRAM

According to INAC, capacity development involves helping First Nations develop, maintain or



improve the 10 Core Functions of First Nations Governments:

- Leadership (e.g., Governance)
- Membership
- Law-making (e.g., by-laws, understanding legislation, policies, etc.)
- Community involvement (e.g., community engagement, communications, etc.)
- External relations
- Planning and risk management (e.g., community planning, strategic planning)
- Financial management
- Human resources management
- Information management and information technology
- Basic administration

When required, the UNSI Capacity Development staff can help member First Nations identify their capacity development needs and work with communities to develop the best approach moving forward, such as: facilitated sessions in strategic planning; training or workshops in the above core functions or other capacity development areas; assisting with policy development; developing tools; research; or providing other means of support.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016-17 ACTIVITIES

Regional Director General meeting with UNSI Chiefs, Heather Knockwood, Louis Joe Bernard, Doug Brown, and Joan Sack at Membertou (October 24, 2016)

Meetings with Chiefs and Councils to provide Capacity Development Update:

- Louis Joe and Heather met with Potlotek Chief and Council (September 6);
- Heather met with Acadia Council, CEO and Directors (November);
- Joan Sack, Louis Joe Bernard, Doug Brown, Rachel Paul, met with Membertou Chief and Council (June 27);
- Joan Sack, Louis Joe Bernard met Eskasoni Chief and Council (July 18).

Band Managers (CEO/CFO) Meetings:

- Wagmatcook (June 14), next meeting in Fall 2017;
- To discuss issues with general assessment policy;
- Those present want ongoing meetings to share strategies and best practices.

Louis Joe attended Centre of Excellence for Matrimonial Real Property session (June 13-15, 2017) to collect information and inquire about bringing CEMRP to UNSI communities. Joan attended the AFN AGA (July 25-27, 2017) to network with other tribal councils.

NEXT STEPS

Estates Management Program:

- UNSI submitted proposal to INAC to deliver Mi'kmaq Wills & Estates sessions on how to write a will, how to settle an estate, and how to write a power of attorney and personal directives to member communities;
- Due to high demand for funding, UNSI will have to scale back proposed activities – (i.e., delivering sessions to only one or two communities this fiscal year).

We look forward to continuing outreach and relationship building on an ongoing basis so that member communities can identify their capacity development needs:

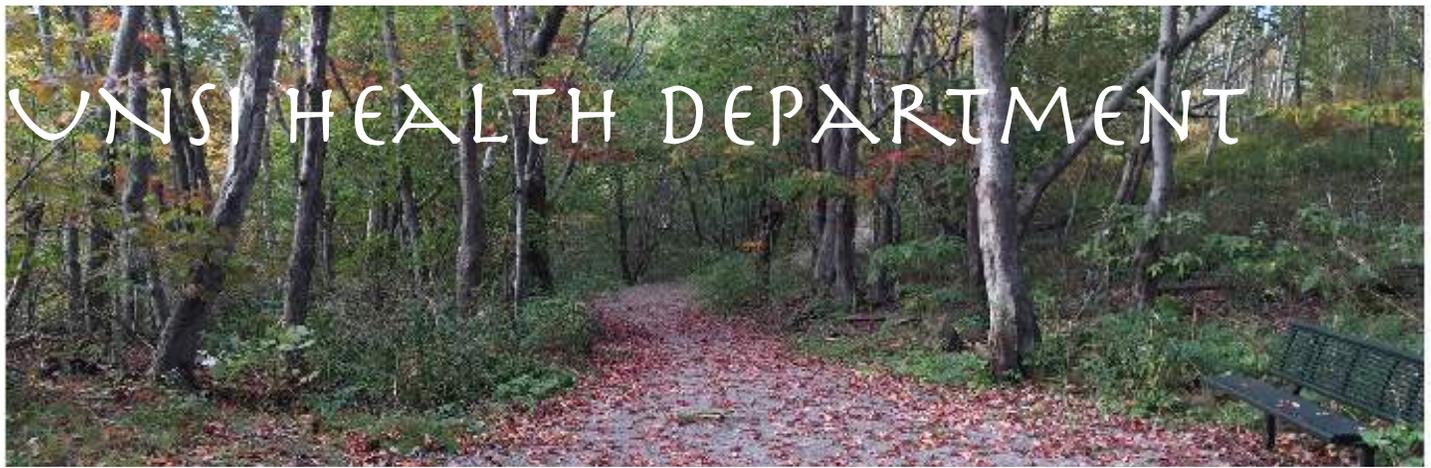
- Ongoing updates to community Chiefs and Councils;
- Work with identified staff in communities, as needs and requirements are identified on an ongoing basis;
- Ongoing UNSI band managers meetings.

Joan Sack,
Director of Capacity Development
(902) 401-4421
joansack@unsi.ns.ca

Louis Joe Bernard,
Capacity Development Coordinator
(902) 565-1887
ljbernard@unsi.ns.ca

Staff Update: Joan Sack is now the Director of Capacity Development; an additional Capacity Development Coordinator position will be posted later this fall.





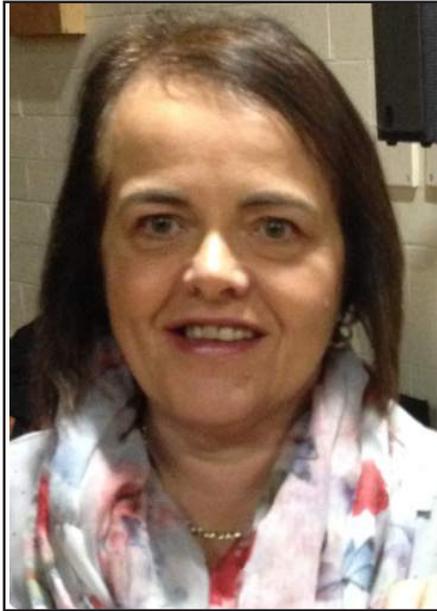
It was a year of significant activity, initiated by Chief Andrea Paul, in how we work with the Province as it relates to assisted living. Community health directors were brought together to voice their concerns and issues. The communities have more people needing home care, especially specialized care as many First Nations struggle with cancer and other maladies. The staff are limited to the degree of care they can offer because the Home & Community Care Program has not received any increased funding since the program was introduced. I have voiced this concern regionally and nationally, but there has not been any positive change to the program.

With the onset of Jordan's Principle, respite care is provided to children with multiple disabilities. However, more change is needed within the Home & Community Care program funding-wise. Although in the budget announcement, funding for HCC and palliative care was said to be coming, but how it is distributed remains unknown. Funding for palliative care is essential in our communities and with this announcement I sincerely hope that it is allocated accordingly.

Our communities must deal with lack of capacity, resources, infrastructure, and governments being prescriptive. Funding should be needs-based from the community level, and changes to policies that are not so restrictive to give flexibility in providing services. We must continue to advocate for our people, who deserve the best possible health care for themselves and their children. Let us make health a priority, but think of it as the social determinants of health which includes education, employment, housing and all aspects of being and access to all.

I must commend the health directors and their staff in providing care when they are struggling with funding issues and other issues that relate to having a professional health centre that meets all First Nations' needs.

Sarah 'Sally' Johnson,
Health Director
mha@unsi.ns.ca



As Diabetes Community Consultant for the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, I have been working on joint activities with the other diabetes consultants in the Atlantic Region. These activities are directed toward meeting the objectives and goals of the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative Program.

I have worked with health directors, community health staff, and diabetes prevention workers in communities, and with recreation and education staff in addressing diabetes. Some UNSI communities have Community Diabetes Working Groups which have been successful in addressing diabetes management and prevention at the community level for over 10 years. These groups allow communities to identify methods of addressing diabetes. All communities receive lists of programs and services that are available, allowing communities the option to choose what

activities they want, or to recommend what activities should receive more focus. The following highlighted programs continue on a regular basis.

DIABETES MONTH SCHOOL EDUCATION

WALKING PROGRAM CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS!

This program consists of three major parts: 1) an education component, 2) a school pedometer walking challenge that occurs over the whole month, and 3) the celebration of student successes at the end of the program. The education component consists of two parts: a) benefits of physical activity, and how to wear a pedometer; b) What is diabetes, and ways to prevent it by eating healthy and being active?

In these sessions, students explored what kinds of physical activities they do, and ways to increase activity by limiting screen time. They also review Canada's food guide to healthy eating and amounts of sugar in soft drinks (e.g., pop). The school-walking program involves grades four-to-six, and has expanded over several years into all Nova Scotia schools, and also into New Brunswick. This year I had 364 participants and delivered 46 educational school sessions on these very topics, a definite success story.

In November 2016 we celebrated 10 years of success!

I have developed a poster with pictures from each community school to highlight the work effort of students, schools, health centres and communities. These posters were delivered to health centres and schools.



DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT JOURNEY

The Diabetes Self-management Journey, designed to enhance participants learning experience with diabetes self-management, was delivered in Membertou and Truro. Participants and supports engaged all sessions together, including recreation and meal times. Community consultants from Mi'kmaq organizations in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick develop and deliver diabetes programs and education such as diabetes 101, nutrition, exercise, heart disease and diabetes, managing your diabetes, foot-care, blood glucose testing, medications, managing stress, sick-day management, alcohol and diabetes, smoking and diabetes, and goal-setting in diabetes management. These topics were presented to enhance skill development in all area of diabetes self-management.

This year we had a record high number of participants, 35, in the Cape Breton Diabetes Self-Management Journey. As a result of the success, a mini-diabetes self-management journey emerged, and was then delivered in Potlotek and in Waycobah. Participant evaluations proved these programs to be highly successful!

HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAM

10,000 STEPS-PER-DAY PEDOMETER CHALLENGE AND HEALTHY LIVING EDUCATION SESSIONS

The Living in Balance program was delivered in Potlotek in spring. This program's goal is to encourage and motivate community members to incorporate a healthier living approach into their daily lives. The program is open to all ages, runs 8-10 weeks, and includes two components: 1) participants tracking their steps and receiving support, and 2) educational sessions that aim at healthy-living information and goal-setting. Potlotek had 15 participants registered for the program with six walking 10,000 steps or more daily.

ADULT BLOOD GLUCOSE & BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING PROGRAMS, CHILDREN AND YOUTH DIABETES RISK FACTOR SCREENING

In partnership with community health centres, several non-diagnostic screenings for blood glucose and blood pressure were done in UNSI communities. Community health centres received screening results so that CHNs and NPs could follow-up with participants. Communities have become more independent in hosting their own screening clinics, while some still require assistance.

One community school also participated in screening for diabetes risk factors in children and youth. Information charts were developed and given to community health staff and directors, complete with child and youth screening results.

GESTATIONAL DIABETES

The gestational diabetes service is available to all women of childbearing age in all communities. It includes information on prevention and management of gestational diabetes. Gestational diabetes and the risk for developing type 2 diabetes, are also discussed in awareness sessions on diabetes and risk factors.

SCHOOL EDUCATION SESSIONS

School education sessions, directed at children from primary to grade 12, focused on ways to prevent diabetes by participating in diabetes awareness and prevention activities. In culturally appropriate settings, students learned about fat and sugar in fast foods, candy and 'junk' foods; enjoyed learning activities and presentations about fats and sugars; learned about and healthy lifestyle and eating; played educational games, like diabetes Jeopardy, and watched Celebrations on

on DVD; Label Detective and Classroom based Physical Activity Posters for encouraging children to be physically active. Parents and teachers visited our ADI booth displays during parent teacher meetings, which emphasized sugars in common drinks, and importance of physical activity and healthy eating.

COMMUNITY SESSIONS FOR DIABETICS

Community presentations focused on promoting self-management through knowledge of diabetes, high blood pressure and salt, diabetes and preventing kidney disease, medications, ADI and chronic disease networking sessions with health staff were offered in partnership with FNIHB. An annual video-conference education session is in the planning stages.

Linkages with outside agencies were formed to connect communities with available resources outside the community. Some connections included The Heart & Stroke Foundation, The Kidney Foundation of Canada, National Aboriginal Diabetes Association, and Canadian Diabetes Association at the national level. Provincially, regional and local links included Nova Scotia Health Authority diabetes education centres, St. Francis Xavier University, IWK Diabetes Centre, Diabetes Care Program of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton Diabetes Educators

Group. Others included pharmaceutical companies and Breakfast for Learning Program.

Ann Gottschall, RN BScN MN CDE (Certified Diabetes Educator)
Certified Master Trainer for Chronic Disease-Stanford University Program
ann.gottschall@ns.sympatico.ca



NUTRITION



As UNSI's dietitian, I offer group-based nutritional services to all 13 Mi'kmaw communities in Nova Scotia. With health centre staff, we work together to prioritize and plan annual nutrition programming. Nutrition programming begins at the health centres, but is offered throughout the communities.

Community feedback and evaluations are an important part of work plan development. Work plans are informal, and are updated to reflect changing needs in each community. I am pleased to share some of the successful programming that has been happening over the 2016-17 fiscal year.

PRENATAL SESSIONS

Healthy eating for pregnancy: Reviewed nutrient needs in pregnancy and how menu plan to meet nutrient needs for mom and baby.

Infant feeding and making homemade baby food: An overview of infant feeding from birth to one year, and hands-on cooking class to make homemade baby food.

Parents were encouraged to look for bright, rich, darker-coloured foods to feed their babies. Cooks were excited to learn that hard-to-peel squash can be baked and easily scooped out of its skin.

Eating well with gestational diabetes, and diabetes in pregnancy: Understanding the role of carbohydrates in the diet. Helping families understand the importance of regular follow-up care.

SCHOOL SESSIONS

Teacher teaching boxes: Nutrition Resources are dropped off at homeroom classes to help support school year learning. Boxes include mystery food box, musical food and various games to help students learn about the four food groups.

Classroom teaching sessions: I visited schools with a health team to help discuss eating well with Canada's Food Guide and how to slowly build healthy eating practices.

School menu, recess, and fundraising options: Assisted when requested to help update menus, canteen and fundraising ideas to reflect Canada's Food Guide. Programs helped start student-led nutrition committees for students to have a voice in what healthy eating choices they would like at their schools.

COOKING CLASSES

Youth, adult and senior-focused cooking classes: Classes looked at popular canned, boxed and packaged meals, and taught participants how to make a healthier homemade options. Recipes are participant-driven and often work with traditional ingredients of moose and deer meats, fish, fiddle heads, and berries. Upcoming fiscal year classes are dependent on health centre funding.

Nancy and Julia Batiste from Potlotek make fruit kabobs to go with the groups mango haddock fish tacos. In support of eating fish at least twice a week, fish is a common theme in monthly cooking class recipes.

SCREENING CLINICS

Headstart/Primary registration or community-based wellness days: Do you have an upcoming wellness day in your community? Screening tools allow the dietitian to screen families in 5-10 minutes to keep up with high community attendance during wellness days. Screening tools have been developed for infants, toddlers, school-aged children, adults and seniors. The tool gives participants short and long term goals to work on and stresses the importance of making family based changes.

Family-based screening clinics: Parents attend screening clinics to identify what the family is doing well and to identify areas to work on. Goals are worked on as a family and change is made slow to encourage long-term success. The clinics discuss adult versus child roles and how to have healthier eating relationships around food.

HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAM

Adult and family-based programs: Programs included a series of sessions and allowed participants to set weekly goals, and have the encouragement and support of a group setting. The group learned the importance of making family-based changes and how to set realistic healthy-living goals. Topics touched on menu planning, updating grocery lists, recipe sharing, updating cooking skills, how to shop on a budget, the power of food in health prevention, tips for staying active, and how to build healthy eating relationships around food.

While weight is not the focus of the healthy living program, participants were shocked to see a replica of a two pound weight loss.

HEALTH PROMOTION AND PREVENTION EVENTS

Eating well with type 2 diabetes: Classes taught participants how to identify carbohydrates in the diet and how to menu-plan for healthy meals, snacks and drink options. Classes stressed the importance of knowing your body's reaction to carbohydrates, and also the importance of managing self-care.

Eating well with high cholesterol and high blood pressure: Community members were shown how to read labels and select foods that are low in saturated fat and sodium. Low fat and low sodium recipes were shared. Participants learned the value of healthy eating, and how food choices can help promote long-term health. Classes focused on what-to-eat, to how-to-update grocery lists, to healthier choices for the whole family.

UPCOMING 2017-18 PROGRAMMING

If you have ideas for future nutrition programming, please do not hesitate to contact me or your local health centre. I am grateful to each community for helping to make nutrition programming a priority, and part of annual work plan development.

Angela MacDonald,
Nutritionist
amacdonald@unsi.ns.ca
(902) 577-0575



HOME & COMMUNITY CARE



This past year saw many cases of the provincial continuing care system being unable to align with our communities' home care needs, especially in palliative care service delivery. The Briefing Note and Gap Analysis was completed by both the community coordinators, and the Aboriginal Continuing Care Policy Forum (ACCPF). The Union of Nova Scotia Indians received funding from Aboriginal Affairs to carry on the work of ACCPF.

The UNSI Home and Community Care (HCC) Coordinator sits as co-chair for ACCPF, and as of June 2016, the other co-chair will be the First Nation and Inuit Regional HCC Coordinator. With project funding from the Tripartite Forum, and approval from its Health Working Committee, Janet Rhymes was contracted to complete a report, examining why and how provincial policies continue to

have jurisdictional coverage gaps with our HCC program. We have sent our Briefing Note and Gap Analysis documents to Chief Andrea Paul for input into her ongoing discussions with the province. It is anticipated that First Nations Inuit Health Benefits (FNIHB) Atlantic will fund the ACCPF for fiscal year 2018-19 to further this work. However, community coordinators and health directors experience difficulties in providing the more acute continuing care aspects of home care. As a team, we are aware of the inequitable policy we find ourselves working under provincially.

The HCC Coordinators meet quarterly in various communities, and make effort to attend despite the many needs in their respective communities. We are able to share program issues, and how-to-look-for best practices, given the limited resources. Although Assembly of First Nations (AFN) no longer participates with its First Nations home care partners at the national level, we continue to voice our concerns about the lack of funding to initiate new services, especially for our Elders. These include expanding our service delivery programs, while work with outdated data collection tools. The communication protocol from the national office does not allow our regional voice to be heard except through the regional FNIHB. This is a concern and we continue to request AFN restart that national dialogue with our National Home and Community Care Program to ensure we are allowing for engagement of all our community staff.

We continue to receive positive comments about our community program, and in areas that need to be built upon. Areas for building, such as respite, would include Elders' programs such as workshops, Elder-friendly visiting, and more worker support for compassion fatigue programming. We have advocated continuously for increased funding for workshops to address Alzheimers Disease, cancer prevention and journey, and palliative care for both clients and their families and/or community members. This is a small glimpse of what our program could offer to our communities, if not for yearly funding deficiencies.

The Mi'kmaq Cancer Network bi-annual meetings discuss cancer issues and possible solutions, and updates us on how the provincial system and our local cancer units are progressing. Many of our community members are still being treated, or discharged without a Continuum of Care protocol in place. The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) assembled a national board to share knowledge and examine these issues, with UNSI as partner for the next First Nation Cancer Strategy, that will potentially see the provincial system include our community perspective. Newfoundland and Labrador also has representation at this forum, and we share our issues in terms of Non Insured Health benefits (NIHB) coverage, transportation, early screening opportunities, The Mi'kmaq Cancer Network bi-annual meetings discuss cancer issues and possible solutions, and updates us on how the provincial system and our local cancer units are progressing. Many of our community members are still being treated, or discharged without a Continuum of Care protocol in place. The Canadian Partnership

UNSI HCC Coordinator continues to sit on the Public Health and Primary Care Committee under Atlantic Policy Congress' (APC) Health Partnership. We have formed a Chronic Disease planning sub-committee to recommend how the expected Chronic Disease Framework will roll out in the Atlantic Region based on community priorities, needs and discussion with our representative community staff. These recommendations are forwarded to health directors, and Chiefs for final input and acceptance.

Please contact me with any concerns or feedback on our HCC Program as this is a community program meant to respond to the needs and culture of our community clients.

Beverley Madill,
Home & Community Care Coordinator for Nova Scotia, Newfoundland & Labrador
homecare@unsi.ns.ca





Jordan's Principle is a child-first initiative calling on the government of first contact to ensure that First Nations children of all ages can access public services on the same terms as other children, without experiencing service denials, delays or disruption. Services covered by Jordan's Principle include, but are not limited to education, health, child welfare, childcare, recreation, and language services.

The service coordinators for Unama'ki region are Jessica Greggains, Membertou and Potlotek; Kelly Holley, Eskasoni; and Terri-Anne Johnson, Waycobah and Wagmatcook.

SERVICES

On February 28, 2017, our team' began servicing 141 families in all five (5) Unama'ki communities. Families reported that Jordan's Principle had helped advocate for their child, and improve their quality of family life. The main areas of need within our region were speech services, respite services, and occupational therapy (paediatrics). Jordan's Principle, through the Service Access Resolution Fund, has funded \$1,057,455.00 worth of services for First Nations children living in Nova Scotia, since March 2017.

With help from local partners, Jordan's Principle was funded to develop a speech and language service delivered entirely in Mi'kmaq. For the very first time, Jordan's Principle offered speech services to communities that previously had none.

Respite services for children with special needs was inadequate prior to Jordan's Principle funding, and is now one of the most utilized services. Respite care is now a crucial service within our communities. Occupational therapy is another high-demand service. Families utilized occupational therapy to help children with handwriting skills, sensory needs, learning self-care, and gross motor skills.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As service coordinators, we understand the importance of integrating with our communities, and introduced Jordan's Principle via community gatherings. We have also participated in the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Summer Games, Jordan's Principle Wear Blue Day, career days and parenting groups, and the Nova Scotia Hearing Speech Open House.

PARTNERSHIPS

UNSI's Jordan's Principle team worked diligently to create local partnerships to increase community capacity, and to ensure that funding is spent locally, using First Nations organizations wherever possible. We have partnered locally with health centres, schools, Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey, Band councils, daycares, Education Directors, Mi'kmaw Child and Family Services, Headstart programs, and numerous private organizations.

MOVING FORWARD

As Jordan's Principle becomes rooted in our communities, it is imperative that our team work with families to establish systems for effective service delivery through training, workshops, and fiscal responsibility.

Jessica Greggains, Children Service Coordinator
jgreggains@unsi.ns.ca

Kelly Holley, Children Service Coordinator
kholley@unsi.ns.ca

Terri-Ann Johnson, Children Service Coordinator
tjohnson@unsi.ns.ca

Jordan's Principle will leave a legacy for future generations.





First Nations Labor & Employment Development Survey (FNLED): Strategic Highlights

The UNSI's Information Governance and Data Projects team attended a three-day FNLED development meeting on June 6-8, 2016, in Ottawa, with the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC). The intent of this meeting pertained to the promotion of common understandings regarding the purpose and approaches to the FNLED. The survey development processes were discussed. Furthermore, FNLED role out plans were shared, in addition to plans relating to the co-development of work plans and timelines. This meeting provided an opportunity to engage with peers in the regional network about approaches to

community engagement.

Our IGDP team has identified and invited seven (7) committee members that represent specific Mi'kmaw community stakeholders. This body is comprised Mi'kmaw experts. As members, the advisors will provide relevant information about their respective communities and offer feedback about the survey process. The FNLED advisory committee will hold their inaugural meeting on October 17, 2017, in Halifax. Although UNSI IGDP will host this meeting, FNIGC's Katie Wood and Kyla Marcoux will be in attendance to co-facilitate as partners.

First Nations Regional Health Survey (RHS): Strategic Highlights

The RHS Phase 3 project is still ongoing. To date, Nova Scotia's RHS data has been cleaned and shared with a talented team of indigenous students who are conducting the analyses under the



direct supervision of Amy Bombay with Dalhousie's School of Medicine. At an upcoming meeting of the RHS advisory committee, preliminary data will be presented and from that presentation the committee members will advise on the report writing format, which data should be particularly highlighted, and through what means the report should be shared.

A National proposal supporting the continuity of the RHS projects regionally is currently under development by our national partner organization, FNIGC, with the collaboration of select regions. Our opportunity to participate in the development of national project budgets is a recent noteworthy milestone we are proud to share with you.

Should you have any further questions, feel free to contact the IGDP team at any time. We will gladly take your questions and quickly respond. Please visit our website www.mawkim.ca for more IGDP project updates and upcoming events.

Wela'lioq, IGDP Team!

Mindy Denny,
Information Governance and Data Projects Director
mdenny@unsi.ns.ca
(902) 371-1626

Kirstin Ward,
Survey Support & Community Outreach - Information Governance & Data Projects
kward@unsi.ns.ca





UNSI ADMINISTRATION



Nancy Paul
Executive Assistant



Rachel Paul
Executive Administrator





FINANCIAL REPORT



At the end of 2016, I took on the role of Chief Financial Officer, after the retirement of Carl Gould. The Union of Nova Scotia Indians would like to thank Carl for his 46 years of service to the organization. I would also like to thank UNSI staff for their support during this transition of management.

Over the past year, we have started two new major programs - Jordan's Principle and First Nations Labour and Employment Development (FNLED). Both have already been of immense success. These two programs have allowed us to hire four new staff members and I believe they will leave a lasting positive impact in our communities. For the upcoming year we have another new program, the Mental Wellness Team, which has allowed us to hire an additional four staff members. These programs help to strengthen the financial and operational ability of UNSI.

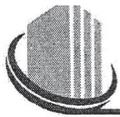
The Union has seen tremendous growth in terms of staff this past year, which will help us provide greater services to our communities. Our Membertou office has also undergone extensive renovations to accommodate this growth.

In this annual report, you will find UNSI's audited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2017.

Michael Dwyer,
Chief Financial Officer

mdwyer@unsi.ns.ca





INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of The Union of Nova Scotia Indians

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of The Union of Nova Scotia Indians, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at March 31, 2017 and the consolidated statements of changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Union of Nova Scotia Indians as at March 31, 2017 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Sydney, Nova Scotia
July 27, 2017

THE UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA INDIANS
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2017

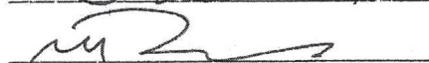
	2017	2016
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	\$ 80,033	\$ 211,728
Accounts receivable <i>(Note 5)</i>	205,745	190,800
	\$ 285,778	\$ 402,528
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Accounts payable	\$ 349,109	\$ 275,382
Deferred revenue <i>(Note 7)</i>	249,270	403,094
	598,379	678,476
NET ASSETS (DEFICIENCY)		
Unrestricted	(312,601)	(275,948)
	\$ 285,778	\$ 402,528

Contingent liability *(Note 11)*

Lease commitments *(Note 12)*

On behalf of the Board

 Director

 Director

THE UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA INDIANS
Consolidated Statement of Operations
Year Ended March 31, 2017

	Budget	2017	2016
Revenue			
Health Canada	\$ 1,040,000	\$ 1,141,919	\$ 1,051,435
Province of Nova Scotia	58,500	75,616	61,000
First Nations Information Governance Centre	505,000	507,992	508,437
Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey	15,000	19,774	24,000
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development	760,500	789,522	756,837
National Indian Brotherhood	90,000	60,505	-
Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq	12,000	14,190	-
Atlantic Policy Congress	12,000	18,828	-
Other	187,900	204,237	-
Chase the Ace	-	41,596	-
	<u>2,680,900</u>	<u>2,874,179</u>	<u>2,401,709</u>
Expenses			
Accounting fees	25,000	27,800	25,800
Administration	185,000	183,439	149,908
Catering	-	-	8,619
Cleaning	15,600	16,850	17,065
Consulting fees	40,000	46,092	62,512
Data collection	20,000	19,925	38,885
Donations	2,000	1,700	100
Equipment rental	22,000	23,506	30,478
General Assembly	100,000	104,672	61,489
HIV/AIDS Strategy	95,000	115,684	-
Honoraria	100,000	108,453	50,282
Insurance	2,500	2,372	1,679
Interest and bank charges	2,300	2,654	2,136
Legal fees	2,000	2,740	-
Meetings and conventions	18,000	17,879	31,826
Office	115,000	119,481	108,208
Performer fees	6,000	6,400	-
Prize payout	-	22,596	-
Rent	60,960	63,481	63,142
Salaries and wages	1,350,000	1,488,792	1,380,316
Secretarial services	2,000	1,380	880
Supplies	14,000	16,169	2,500
Telephone	21,000	23,768	31,832
Travel	390,540	382,824	269,041
Youth gathering	92,000	92,000	93,000
	<u>2,680,900</u>	<u>2,890,657</u>	<u>2,429,698</u>
Deficiency of revenue over expenditures	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (16,478)</u>	<u>\$ (27,989)</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements



THE UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA INDIANS
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended March 31, 2017

	2017	(Restated) 2016
Net assets (deficiency), beginning of year	\$ (275,948)	\$ (186,718)
Excess of expenditures over revenue	(16,478)	(27,989)
Clawback of 2012-13 funding by Health Canada <i>(Note 4)</i>	-	(61,241)
Clawback of 2016-17 funding by Health Canada	<u>(20,175)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net assets (deficiency), end of year	<u>\$ (312,601)</u>	<u>\$ (275,948)</u>

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

- TO PROTECT AND MAINTAIN M'IKMAQ RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENT;
- TO PRESERVE AN ENHANCED WAY OF LIFE FOR THE MI'KMAQ THAT IS ASSURED BY OUR ANCESTRY AND GUARANTEED BY OUR MI'KMAQ TREATY RIGHTS;
- TO GUARANTEE LIBERTY AND FREEDOMS AND RESTORING TITLE;
- TO FULFILL THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA INDIANS AS STATED IN THE CONSTITUTION;
- TO PROMOTE THE EDUCATION OF THE BANDS IN MATTERS AFFECTING THE MI'KMAQ.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND WELL-BEING OF THE INDIANS OF NOVA SCOTIA;
- TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE INDIANS OF NOVA SCOTIA;
- TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS OF INDIAN PEOPLE, TO INFORM INDIANS OF THEIR RIGHTS AND TO ASSIST INDIANS OF NOVA SCOTIA IN THEIR ENFORCEMENT OF THEIR RIGHTS;
- TO PROMOTE DISCUSSION OF INDIAN PROBLEMS;
- TO SEEK TO PROMOTE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIANS AND OTHER PEOPLE;
- TO INITIATE AND CARRY OUT PROGRAMS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF INDIAN PEOPLE;
- TO COOPERATE WITH GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE AGENCIES FOR THE PROMOTING OF THE INTERESTS OF INDIAN PEOPLE;
- TO DO ALL SUCH THINGS AS ARE INCIDENTAL OR CONDUCTIVE TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES.



Union of Nova Scotia Indians

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