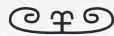




IN THE SPIRIT OF
NM'TGINEN



7th ANNUAL REPORT
2007-2008





MISSION

The Mi'gmawei Mawiomi was founded upon the spirit and intent of the Political Accord of 2000 consented among the Gespegewagi Mi'gmaq governing councils of Listuguj, Gesgapegiag and Gespeg.

The Mi'gmaq nation, having inhabited this territory since time immemorial have inalienable title to the land, surrounding waters and have unextinguished aboriginal rights, title and treaty rights throughout the territory.

It is therefore our mission to uphold, reaffirm and respect the treaty and aboriginal rights and aspirations of our people by rebuilding the nation through repatriation of lands, resources and surrounding waters.

We will forge alliances to support the pursuit of all paths to Mi'gmaq self-determination by engaged strategic national and international partnerships in economic, social, traditional, cultural and other nation building developments as deemed necessary by the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi.

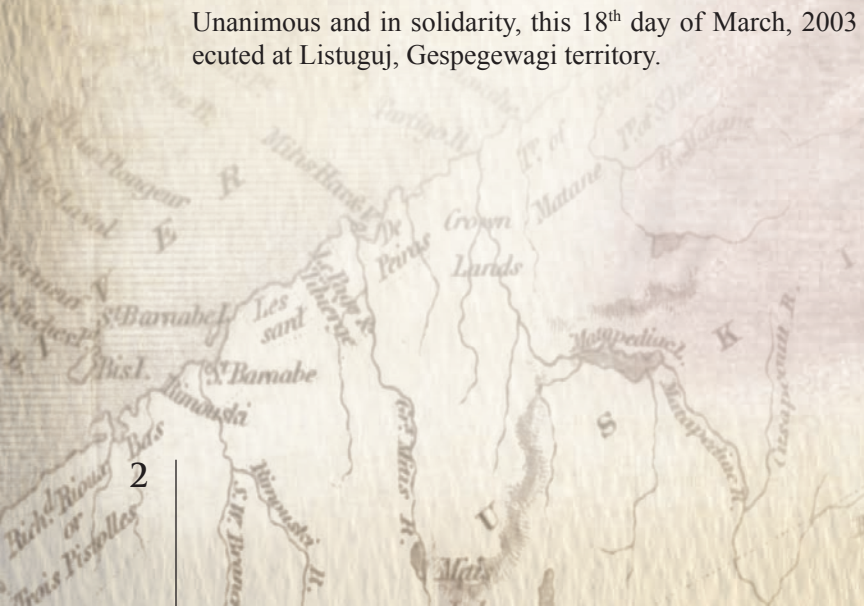
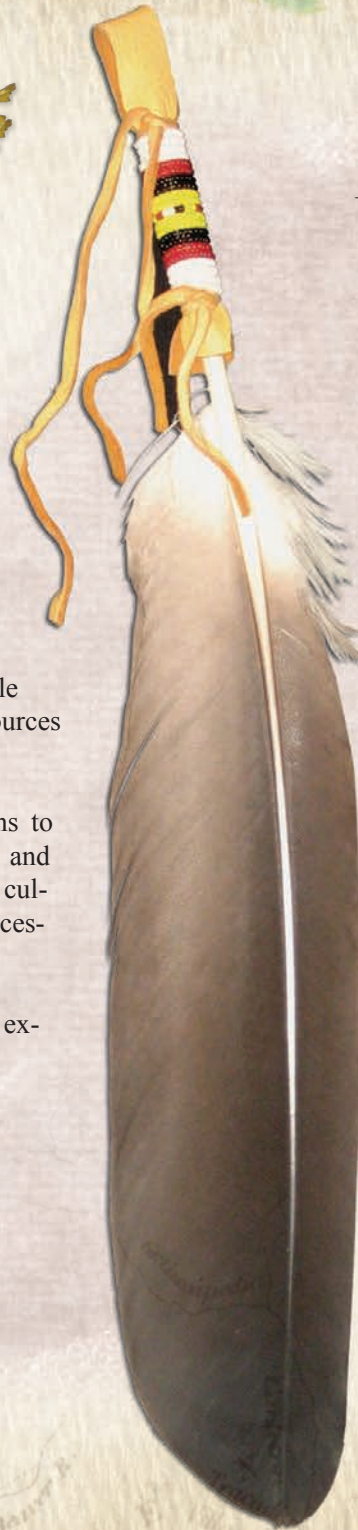
Unanimous and in solidarity, this 18th day of March, 2003 executed at Listuguj, Gespegewagi territory.

VISION

The Mi'gmawei Mawiomi is empowered and mandated as defined by the Governing Councils of Gespeg, Gesgapegiag and Listuguj to represent and to protect the Mi'gmaq nation within Gespegewagi on matters of aboriginal, treaty and inherent rights.

Asserting our inalienable rights and jurisdiction over the Gespegewagi territory through self-determination and nation status are the goals we envision to sustain our families, youth and elders toward the next seven (7) generations.

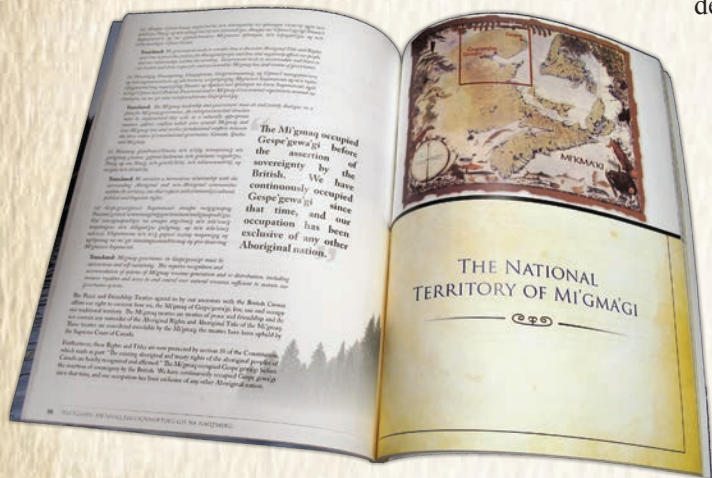
Agreed by consensus this 18th day of March, 2003 at Listuguj, Gespegewagi territory.



CHIEF SCOTT MARTIN, LISTUGUJ

CO-CHAIR, MI'GMAWEI MAWIOMI

As Interim Chair of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat, Chief's Executive Committee (CEC) and the Executive Finance Committee (EFC), it has been a very productive year. During the past year, the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Assembly & Chiefs had taken the time to reflect on the direction of the MMS.



This is a turning point in our history as we deal with the deposition of our Nm'tginen (Statement of Claim) to governments as you endorsed at our last AGA in Gespeg. Our communities have filed a strong statement of position on important issues pertaining to the future of our people. In the future, it will be essential that we continue to strengthen our position on the uses of the natural resources on our traditional territory.

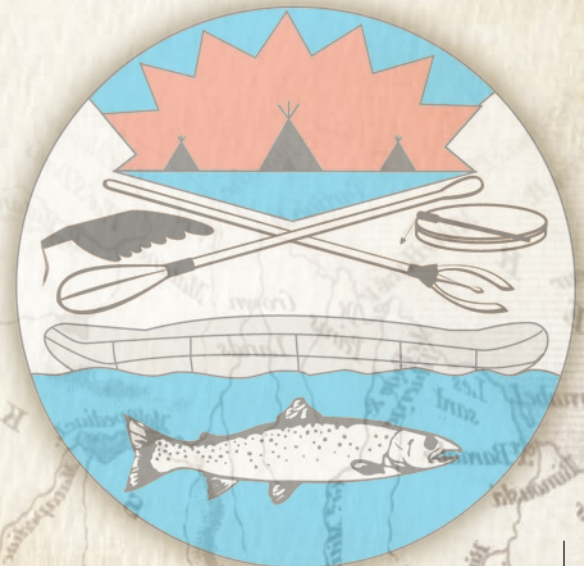
The document titled Nm'tginen has been completed and filed with the government. As a result, our former Executive Director Brenda G. Miller has been appointed Chief Negotiator under the Comprehensive claim file. MMS will be posting and filling the position of Executive Director shortly.

I would like to extend a warm invitation to all member community residents to attend this year's Annual General Assembly on August 7th and 8th, which will be hosted by Listuguj. This will give you the opportunity to be briefed and reflect on the MMS activities and to present their annual reports.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all the staff for their devoted efforts and look forward to moving ahead in the direction envisioned under our joint protocol.

In peace and friendship,

Chief Scott Martin





CHIEF GUY CONDO, GESGAPEGIAG

CO-CHAIR, MI'GMAWEI MAWIOMI

In July 2007, I became Chief of Gesgapegiag and the MMS organization was new to me. The MMS staff cordially invited my council and I to a full orientation of the organization. We were unaware of the role of MMS and how it would benefit our community. After meeting the staff and becoming more involved with the MMS, I feel that it is my duty as Chief of Gesgapegiag to take on the responsibility of working with the other two communities to work as one.

I have been a part of the Chief Executive Committee (CEC) which is constituted by the Chiefs from Listuguj, Gesgapegiag and Gespeg. The CEC is responsible for overseeing many of the Secretariat's functions in its administrative process. It is our duty to ensure that decisions are made promptly therefore the CEC meets once a month on a regular basis to provide support when needed in order that the functioning of the MMS can operate efficiently and effectively.

Throughout the last year the major accomplishments made by the CEC were the decision to submit the Nm'tginen (Statement of Claim) to governments and the hiring of the Nutewistog (speaker). In submitting the Nm'tginen to Canada and Quebec governments, we felt we had to take it a step further and hire a Nutewistog which is the lead negotiator for MMS. Having the lead negotiator will allow us to move forward with depositing a land claim in the future.

Another accomplishment that was made throughout the year was the hiring of the Communication Liaison Officers in each community. This initiative was an effort to get the communities more involved with the Secretariat; although this initiative was short-term it proved to be a very successful initiative. It allowed the three communities to get more involved with the MMS, to provide members with a better understanding and comprehension of the MMS and the ongoing activities and allow us to capture their concerns and questions for the future of our Nation.

The role of the CEC has evolved and has become a major part of the organization's functioning; having the three Chiefs sit at one table allows us to unite together and stand strong as one voice, one nation. We are here to grow, to prosper and to bring the communities together, to work together and become stronger as a nation. I have only been a part of this organization for a short period; however I feel that being a part of this organization is a crucial part for us Mi'gmaq people to reclaim our territory and to obtain what is rightfully ours. I look forward to the coming challenges that lie ahead in the future and I am willing to do the best that I can as a leader to not only provide guidance to my community but to make a stand as a nation.

In Peace and Friendship
Welalin

Chief Guy Condo



CHIEF CLAUDE JEANNOTTE, GESPEG

CO-CHAIR, MI'GMAWEI MAWIOMI
CHAIR OF THE STEERING AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

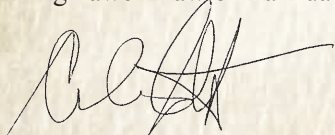
The year 2007-2008 was one of the most feverish for the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi. A key document for the advancement of our rights and interests over Gespe'gewa'gi was officially tabled before the governments of Canada and Quebec. Last November, the MM Chiefs presented the Nm'tginen to the Quebec Minister of Affaires autochtones, Benoit Pelletier, and to the Right Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of the Canadian Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

These intergovernmental meetings allowed us to present the document. The Nm'tginen explains and confirms how we, the Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gma'gi Mi'gmaq, maintain our aboriginal rights and title over our territory, through our relationship with Maqamigew (the Land), Sawmuqwan (the Water), Ugnu'sin (the Air) and Musi'gisg (the Sky). To support our claim, we explained to the ministers that we assert through our language and oral traditions the ongoing exclusive occupation of the territory. Our Mi'gmaq elders and those who speak our language assert that many sites, gathering places, rivers and tributaries throughout the Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gwa'gi were named, known and used before the arrival of the Europeans.

We also mentioned to the representatives of the Canadian and Quebec governments that our aboriginal title and inherent right to self-government were not granted as a right by the Canadian Constitution. Rather, our title and our inherent right to self-government stem from our very relationship to the creation.

It is under the stewardship of these historical principles that I invite all the Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gmaq to live their rights and aspirations on the Gespe'gewa'gi territory. The Mi'gmaq Nation is proud of its origins, its values and its history. In this spirit, let's work together to build a promising future for our children. On this path, let us be guided by the wisdom of our elders.

As Chief of the Gespeg Mi'gmaq Nation, I am thrilled to be welcoming you to our Annual General Assembly under the theme "In the Spirit of Nm'tginen" and to be inviting you to enjoy reading the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi annual report for the year 2007-2008.



Claude Jeannotte
Chief of the Gespeg Mi'gmaq Nation



micmac

Members of the Steering and Technical Committee (STC)

Listuguj

Councillor Kevin Methot
Councillor Rene Martin
Elder John Isaac

Gespeg

Councillor
Monique Jeannotte
Councillor Kevin Langlois
Elder Camille Jeannotte

Gesgapegiag

Catherine Johnson
Elder William Jerome
Councillor Douglas Martin

Chair: Chief Claude Jeannotte (Gespeg)



BRENDA G. MILLER, NUTEWISTOQ

The Gespe'gewa'gi Rights and Title and Title Claim process with the support and mandate of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Assembly experienced significant progress throughout the pre-negotiations phase this past year.

The first indication that the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi saw concrete advancement was when the Nm'tginen was tabled for ratification at the Annual General Assembly held in Gespeg, on June 2007.

The Nm'tginen commonly known to the government as the Statement of Claim (SOC) was deposited to Canada and Quebec in November of 2007. This important and historic document speaks to the common understanding and intent by the Mi'gmaq nation to rights and land title in Gespe'gewa'gi, Migmagi national territory. This document is a result of a complex multi-faceted internal work process lead by Mi'gmaq speakers, legal counsel and cultural knowledge keepers from the communities of Gespe'gewa'gi. The Nm'tginen was also a constant agenda topic at the Steering Technical Committee (STC) table whose role and mandate is to oversee the development of this document before approval was sought at the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Assembly level.

In 2006, the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Assembly mandated a technical team to begin discussions with Canada and Quebec toward the development of goals and strategies detailed in the wording and structure of the Niganita suatas'gl llutaqann. Since then, the technical team has developed and tabled fifteen (15) drafts to the Assembly for input and subsequent direction. With fifteen (15) drafts behind us, we can conclude that the drafting process can be a daunting challenge; however, the outcome has demonstrated the time and energy dedicated to produce the best document reflective of Mi'gmaq interests and world view perspectives has produced a document that the Gespe'gewa'gi members can relate to and thus be engaged in a real way.

During this period, the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi leadership with the Steering Technical Committee (STC) and legal counsel were working hard to finalize this important process, the Niganita suatas'gl llutaqann (NI), in Mi'gmaq language means the "Thinking before the decision". The Mi'gmaq speakers and elders named this important process to describe the pre-negotiations exploratory work. The NI is intended to support in a tangible way; a collective pursuit toward achieving common interests within the communities of Gesgapegiag, Listuguj and Gespeg. To this end, priority fields of interest discussed by the leadership at the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Assembly and Mi'gmaq Tribal Council level among others could possibly involve economic development, Mi'gmaq language enrichment including access to regional resource development. Discussions are continuing with the leadership and government officials to ensure common interests are those that will benefit the Gespe'ge'wagi communities.

The Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Assembly of October 2007 endorsed the Niganitasuatas'gl llutaqann (NI) In April 2008, it was announced that the NI met the approval of Canada followed by Quebec's approval more recently in June.

Currently the Tri-partite teams with the respective levels of authority are working toward an official signing ceremony to be held in the summer of 2008.

In March 2008, the Mi'gmaq Tribal Council mandated the commencement of yet another phase to the Gespe'gewa'gi claims process. They agreed to open the Office of Nutewistog whose role is to focus on the claims coordination on behalf of Gespe'gewa'gi leadership and communities. The initial drafting and consultative work of a claims implementation model is being developed during the first quarter of this fiscal year with the intent to have political approval and implementation commencing in the fall of 2008.

The Nutewistog is available at any time to respond to any questions members may have regarding the claims file.

In peace and friendship

Brenda G. Miller
Nutewistog

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome again this year to our annual reporting. I will walk you through some of last year's milestones, as each director will report on the progress of their respective Units.

The last fiscal year the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat has accomplished significant achievements surrounding the claims process. The two most important outcomes are the Nm'tginen (Statement of Claim) and the Niganita suatas'gl IIsutaqann (NI – the thinking before the decision). These are two very important initiatives that pave the way for the future generations of Gespe'gewa'gi.

The MMS is also strongly involved in providing support in many other files related to the claims process with the Federal and Provincial Governments specific to many facets of research, negotiations, resource development and intergovernmental relations which are all mandated by the Assembly (Board of Leadership).

This leads me to my next announcement. Back in February, through the recommendations from the Steering and Technical Committee (STC), the Chief's Executive Committee (CEC) made the honor of appointing to the position of Nutewistog (spokesperson) Ms. Brenda G. Miller, former Executive Director. She brings to her new position, many years of perseverance, dedication, experience with government officials, First Nations leaders and most importantly her belief in the cause of our Mi'gmaq people. The role of Nutewistog is to work on behalf and in the best interest of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi which represents the three communities of Listuguj, Gesgapegiag and Gespeg in the process under the Niganita'suatas'gl' IIsutaqann (NI).

The Secretariat is going thru a transition stage with the departure of the Executive Director. In the absence of

an ED, I was promoted to the position as Director of Administration / Acting Office Manager to ensure the functioning of the management and administration in executing the mandates of the organization. I was given the opportunity to rise to the challenges of not only the Secretariat but also assisting the political body of the Chiefs Executive Committee which I have to thank for their support and guidance throughout this process.

In the administrative section, I am pleased to report that our financial accountability has maintained its current stride of being responsible, accurate and transparent for fiscal 2007-2008. I wish to thank Mark D. Roy and his two finance colleagues for maintaining the high standards set out by the MM. It is with their professionalism and dedication that these standards are met every year.

We are currently re-structuring our central registry system, which serves as our record keeping/archival guide. After six years, we felt the need to re-organize according to standards of the department with the assistance and training from the Canadian Executive Services Organization (CESO). Also, management continues to work with our Human Resource consultant on policies and evaluation performance training which will later identify training and development for staff to advance in their capacity.

As you know we recently went through two elections this past June; I would like to congratulate both Chief Allison Metallic from Listuguj and Chief Claude Jeanotte from Gespeg and their respective Councils on their recent appointments. I would like to thank former Chief Scott Martin for his support, dedication and leadership during the period he served as Chair and Co-chair of various committees within the MMA.



If you have further interest in inquiring about the Secretariat's role and functions, please feel free to come by our offices at anytime, our door is open to you. I would like to express my gratitude to the leadership for their support and direction throughout the year and also a BIG "thank you" to the staff for their cooperation and support!!!

I hope this finds you in good spirits,

Chastity Mitchell
Director of Administration

Nm'tginen – Statement of Claim: Statement claiming our territory

NI – An agreement between the Mi'gmaq & Governments on interim issues

Nutewistog –spokesperson to negotiate with Governments on land claims issues

THE RESEARCH REPORT

FRED METALLIC, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

Over the past year (2007-2008), the staff of the Research Unit at the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat has conducted and coordinated research activities in order to fulfill the mandates approved by the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Assembly in June of 2007. The overall aim of the Wesgijinua'luet Gespe'gewa'gi Land Claim Research is to demonstrate that the Mi'gmaq have always used, occupied and lived on our land; and therefore, we have rights and title to our traditional territory, Gespe'gewa'gi.

The 2007-2008 year has been productive; and we are pleased to share with you the highlights of the MMS research activities. In particular, the research activities were conducted in the following areas:

a) TUS & Mapping

The Traditional Used Study, which began in 2005, is moving along. Over the past year, the interview-process was completed in Gespeg, Gesgapegiag and Listuguj (in November, February and June, respectively). In the coming year staff will continue to process the data obtained from TUS (i.e. translating, transcribing, digitizing, and archiving the information).

MMS staff members also received training in mapping software (MapInfo). The training focused on using the software in order to create interactive maps. MapInfo will allow us to generate accurate, analytic and detailed maps using the data obtained from both the Traditional Use Study, as well as other research reports.

b) Mi'gmaq Place-Names (Toponymy)

In the Research Unit, we have also begun to verify place-name data by conducting focus groups with Mi'gmaq language experts. We coordinated and facilitated three (3) focus group sessions with language ex-

perts, and TUS participants, in order to check the place-name data obtained from both MMS research reports as well as the Traditional Use Study. Elders and language experts discussed the origin, meaning and use of the Mi'gmaq place-names.

c) Governance

The Research Unit, along with the National Centre for First Nations Governance (NCFNG), developed a proposal for a Mi'gmaq-based governance conference. Meetings were held with Gespe'gewa'gi leadership in order to develop the goals, objectives and communications plan. Currently, the Research Unit is seeking funding for this initiative.

d) Research Projects

The Research Unit developed projects in the areas of Mi'gmaq law, Mi'gmaq land tenure and Mi'gmaq a'tugwaqann. Researchers spent time working in the communities; and expert reports were submitted. The research conducted in 2007-2008 was geared to develop a Mi'gmaq perspective of our use and occupancy of Gespe'gewa'gi.

e) Research Policies

As the research and community work evolves so too does the need to develop policies around research. The Research Unit, along with community members and academic experts, developed a set of research guidelines. These guidelines 'Gepe'gewa'gi Land Claim Research: Wesgijinua'luet Research Guidelines' are now available in both English and French

f) Sharing Research Findings

In 2004, the MMS, in conjunction with Parks Canada,

conducted research on the Mi'gmaq perspective and participation in the Battle of 1760. In 2007, both Parks and the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi agreed to the text that would be used at the Interpretation Centre. This year, we met with officials from the Battle of Restigouche Interpretation Centre in order to discuss moving into 'Phase Two' of this research. The second phase will involve creating panels, which will communicate to the public the Mi'gmaq role and perspective of the Battle of 1760.

g) Heritage Canada: Web-Site Project (Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gmaq: Speaking about our Land, Nm'tginen / Gespe'gewa'gi, Mi'gmaq: Parler sur notre territoire, nm'tginen)

The Research Unit developed and submitted a proposal to develop a Web-Site based on the unique collections (photos, videos, stories, research) housed by the MMS. This proposal was submitted to Heritage Canada, under their Canadian Culture Online strategy. The Research Unit would like to acknowledge the support received from partners in Listuguj, Gesgapegiag, Gespeg; as well as from neighboring communities, and the academic community. We hope to have this site up and running by mid 2009.

Concluding Remarks

To conclude, the 2007-2008 year has been busy. The staff of the Research Unit worked hard in order to meet the mandates given to them by Assembly. We would like to say thank you to the communities who have shared their knowledge and expertise so that we could collectively meet our objectives and goals for 2007-2008.

Wela'lieg.

THE REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

FELIX ATENCIO-GONZALES, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Since the creation of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Assembly, in 2000, the leadership of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi has taken significant steps to develop a new relationship with the Governments of Canada and Quebec. Listuguj, Gespeg and Gesgapegiag are united under the common objective of defending the Right and Title to Gespe'gewa'gi for the future generations.

In that context and in the Spirit of Nm'tginen, the efforts of the Tri-Council, the Chiefs Executive Committee, the Steering and Technical Committee, the different working tables and the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat work plans, are all focusing on that objective.

This fiscal year, the Communications Unit was active fulfilling the mandate given to us by the communities at the AGA-2007 in Gespeg and to implement the work plan 2007-2008, approved by the MMA leadership.

The team of the Communication Unit uses different tools to inform the communities about the progress of the MMA objectives, the various files that the Secretariat is working on and to support the work of other Units as well to strengthen a common understanding of Mi'gmaq history, culture, worldview and vision.

We published four issues of the Gepsisq magazine; produced live and pre-recorded radio shows that were broadcasted in Listuguj and Gesgapegiag. We also organized and supported different events during National Day of Action, Treaty Day and History Month, including a special education eight-pages publication printed in 38,000 copies and distributed throughout the Gaspesie.

The Nm'tginen me'mnaq Ejiglighmuetueg gis na naqt-mueg was printed, the summary version was distributed to all the members in the three communities, an audio version was recorded put on a CD and distributed at public gathering and community sessions. The MMS different initiatives, programs and activities are also available at our website.

In November 2007 the CEC approved a request made by the Communications Unit to use a portion of an additional fund for a planned community Information & Consultation initiative. Thus, a series of public sessions were held to explain the significance of the Nm'tginen (Statement of Claim, SOC) the context of the land claim process, as well to gather the understanding & views from the communities on the claim process.

The coordinator working with three Local Communication Officers organized twelve (12) sessions in February and March in the three communities within the territory and for the Gespeg members in Montreal. Participants at the sessions showed a good level of interest on the presentations, provided constructive questioning and discussions and they seemed to have a good level of satisfaction with the sessions and its content. The CLO's noted that there was an aspiration of attendants to have their comments, points and ideas taken in consideration and they requested more sessions because of the nature of the discussions as it pertains the land claim negotiations. Because of the limited numbers of people who attended the sessions, the majority of communities' views were not captured and we plan to continue with this program.

The significant steps that the leadership is taking to defend the Right and Title to Gespe'gewa'gi, requires from our Unit to continue the work in sharing the information and fostering more dialogue between the three communities and also between the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Assembly leadership and the communities. The Communications Unit is working hard to respond effectively to the mandate given to us.



AUDITED BY RAYMOND CHABOT GRANT THORNTON

Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balance

Year ended March 31, 2008

	INAC	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expense	Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	Adjusted Prior Year Surplus (Deficit)	Cumul. Surplus (Deficit)
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
01020 Development support of regional or national government institutions	8,523		8,523	8,523			
01110 Tribal Council Funding	261,680	90,083	351,763	407,027	(55,264)	106,050	50,786
01360 Comprehensive Claims Submission	200,000		200,000	205,834	(5,834)	(32,025)	(37,859)
01370 Negotiations Preparedness Initiative Funding	1,200,000	5,538	1,205,538	1,205,941	(403)	(9,731)	(10,134)
61000 Quebec Correctional Services		31,592	31,592	30,021	1,571	(117)	1,454
62000 Apigsigtoagen project Discontinued projects		167,520	167,520	166,510	1,010		1,010
						46,546	46,546
	<u>1,670,203</u>	<u>294,733</u>	<u>1,964,936</u>	<u>2,023,856</u>	<u>(58,920)</u>	<u>110,723</u>	<u>51,803</u>

Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat Financial Position

March 31, 2008

ASSETS

Current assets

Term deposit, 1.8% to 3%
Accounts receivable

71,084
254,372

325,456

Fixed assets

445,643

771,099

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities

Bank overdraft
Accounts payable

2,076
271,577

273,653

SURPLUS

General fund
Capital fund

51,803
445,643

497,446

771,099