



10th ANNIVERSARY



MI'GMawei MAWIOMI



Annual Report 2011

Apajignmuen

“You are giving back what was given to you”

Message from the Chiefs

Chief Guy Condo, Chief Claude Jeannotte, Chief Allison Metallic



Chief Claude Jeannotte (Gespeg), Chief Counsellor Quentin Condo (Gesgapegiag), Chief Allison Metallic (Listuguj). *Missing from photo:* Chief Guy Condo (Gesgapegiag).

We, the Chiefs of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi, present to you the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat's 10th Annual Report. The theme for this year's Annual General Assembly is Apajignmuen, which signifies "giving back what was given to you." We strongly believe in a unified voice in working together for a common goal of Gespe'gewa'gi. We are proud to be part of this ten-year milestone.

We, the Mi'gmaq of Gespe'gewa'gi, are at an important period in our history. In many ways, looking towards our future, we have reason to be positive and to remain proud.

Ten years ago, in 2001 when we established the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi, including the Assembly and Secretariat, we identified two essential responsibilities for the political body:

- Uphold our Treaties and pursue our rightful place in Canada; by relying on our inalienable right of jurisdiction over Mi'gmaq Title; and pledge to renew and repatriate an unceded territory of Gespe'gewa'gi
- Build strong Mi'gmaq governing structures to meet the needs of our people

Over the past ten years, we believe that we have made significant progress in both of these areas. The Assembly is devoting more time to working out and strengthening our own Mi'gmaq governing structures. We have learned that there is an enormous amount of work to be done at the level of the Assembly, Secretariat and, most importantly, at the local level. We must

continue our own personal development as capable contributors to our families, our communities and our Nation. We must continue to develop our capacity-building in our homes and communities.

Most importantly, the bulk of the internal work is getting Gespe'gewa'gi informed and involved to support the work as set out by the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi; equally important, we must continue forging ahead to create economic prosperity for our people.

This year, the Assembly will shift the focus of its work. The Assembly's interest in moving forward is to focus on building our Nation in the following areas: Mi'gmaq governance, resource management and development, and obtaining our fair share, so that revenues generated are given back to our communities. We will continue with all of the opportune development initiatives with other governments, industries and other business partners.

In closing, let us all continue to work together, "One People, One Vision," so that we may continue to achieve our goals for the generations to come. Finally, we want to send a special thank you to the Executive Director and staff for their dedication, loyalty and support over the last ten years. We also thank our members for their active participation and support.



Chief Guy Condo
Gesgapegiag

Chief Claude
Jeannotte
Gespeg

Chief Allison Metallic
Listuguj

Chief Guy Condo,

Born June 1937 in Gesgapegiag, Guy has been a recurring and influential presence in politics for many years. The son of Daniel Condo Sr. and Lina Caplin, Guy spent most of his early childhood with his brothers and sisters growing up in Gesgapegiag.



He realized at a very young age that the living conditions and lack of services in his community were unacceptable. He vowed to himself that one day he would be in a position to change things and improve the situation for his community. Guy was first elected to the position of chief in 1958.

Between the late 80's up until 2002, Guy served several mandates as councilor for the community. He was always active in the community and looked to as a leader, whether serving as an elected council member or acting as an advisor to community members.

Guy was elected to the office of Chief for Gesgapegiag in August 2007, thus making his political history one that spans 50 years. His political style is one with an open door policy - they only need to come to the office and meet him. Guy believes that it is his responsibility to listen to his members and feels that many problems can be resolved through the simple process of dialogue.

Chief Claude Jeannotte

was born on February 3, 1965. His parents are Miss Beatrice Coffin and former Chief Leon Jeannotte. He completed high school at the C.E. Pouliot Polyvalente in Gaspé.



Claude worked as an Assistant Manager for the Continental stores in Gaspé and Tracadie-Shelia. Claude worked in finance at AVCO Financial Service in Gaspé, New-Richmond and Chandler.

Claude was elected councilor for Gespeg in 2003, when he was 38 years old. His responsibilities included managing finances for the band, human resources and negotiations. He assumed the role of Acting Chief in June of 2006-2008. He was elected Chief of Gespeg in June 2008. Claude is following in the footsteps of his late father Leon, who served as the first Chief of Gespeg from 1972-1984.

Under the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Assembly, Claude is the Chair of the MMA, co-Chair of the Executive Finance Committee, and co-chair of the Chief Executive Committee.

Claude and his common law partner Diane Morency have been together for 16 years.

Chief Allison Metallic,

a Mi'gmaq from Listuguj, started his political career 1980; at that time he was the youngest member to be elected Councilor for Listuguj. His political career spanning over 28 years, Allison served as Chief council after several elections. An active Councilor in 1981 under his father's administration, 'Chief Alphonse Metallic', Allison protected our fishing rights during a dispute with the Quebec Government. In a dispute and a resulting standoff at Listuguj in 1998 involving Mi'gmaq logging, he was the lead negotiator with the Quebec Government which resulted in opening doors for opportunities for the people of Listuguj.



In 2001, he concluded negotiations on the Framework Agreement with the Province of Quebec. This important agreement outlined how the province and Listuguj approached important areas such as forestry, tourism and economic development opportunities.

At the age of 18, Allison graduated from Campbellton Senior High School and opened his first convenience store and has been a successful entrepreneur for 30 years. He has been married for over 25 years and has two children and 5 grandchildren. He is an active sport enthusiast who enjoys golf, hockey, etc., at his leisure time.

As Chief of Listuguj, Allison's goal is the exercise of Aboriginal and inherent rights to realize benefit now while long-term negotiations for the Mi'gmaq of Gespegawagi take place.

Message from the Executive Director / Nutewistog

Mawlugutigw



Executive Director / Nutewistog, Troy Jerome

The Mi'gmawei Mawiomi, the Assembly or governing body of the three Mi'gmaq communities of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg and Listuguj, came into being when our political bodies signed a Political Accord in August of 2000. From the signing of the Accord an administrative arm, the Secretariat – which is known as the MMS – was created in 2001 to support and carry out the resolutions and orders of the Assembly.

The vision behind the political alliance was to create a body to fight back against the

extraction of our resources in Gespe'gawa'gi. At this time, communities across Mi'gma'gi were pushing hard to gain access to resources and to have our Treaties of Peace and Friendship recognized.

The timing was right. We deserved more than meager allocations that were being discussed with the provincial politicians and bureaucrats alike. There was a sense that we had hit a wall, but we were not ready to give up. We could push the wall aside, climb over that wall, or go through the wall. It was not a question of do we stay here and accept; rather, it was more of a question of how to overcome this barrier.

Over the past ten years, at meetings with the leadership, with elders, and community members I have heard, "This is our territory, Gespe'gawa'gi. Gespe'gawa'gi starts past Rivière-du-Loup, stretches to Gespeg and goes down to the Nepisiguit River." Despite having such a vast territory, we were only accessing rights near the reserves. There was a sense that something needed to be done.

In a decade, a number of things have changed. In the monumental 1999 Supreme Court ruling of Marshall, Mi'gmaq had their

treaty rights recognized to access resources for commercial sale, rather than just for 'food, social and ceremonial purposes.' Our people are now accessing the very same species of snow crab, shrimp, turbot, lobster, rock crab and a number of other species; and, they are earning a living and providing for their families as our ancestors did prior to the colonialist legislation of the Indian Act. The Marshall decision clearly shows that when Mi'gmaq communities come together and stand up for their rights, they are more powerful and successful.

The Mi'gmawei Mawiomi, through its Secretariat, is pursuing a comprehensive claim process so that the victory and success that we had in commercial fisheries can be increased to include management and science on a broader scale in other areas. We can achieve similar results, claiming our rights to resources in the forestry industry, the mining industry, and the energy sector. We can use the revenues to employ more of our people, and to fund our own governments so that we can make our own decisions. As Mi'gmaq, we know what is best for our families, our communities and our Nation – today and for the generations to come.

We sometimes question our own ability to govern ourselves. Many people question 'What is self-government? Will it be any better than what we have today?' Research from First Nation communities in both Canada and the United States provides answers to questions about self-government. 'Can we do it? And, will we be better off?' The answer is a definitive 'Yes.'

Today 2011: The MMS is wrapping up its research initiative in a Land Claim Summary, showing the world the strength of our claim over Gespe'gewa'gi. The MMS is providing the leadership and its Assembly with a near final draft of a Framework Agreement, which spells out how the Mi'gmaq will address its claim to resources and self-government initiatives with the Federal and Provincial Governments. And, ten years later, the MMS is poised to build a \$400 million wind farm bringing much needed revenues to the communities. With all of these undertakings, we can take the next step in our quest for self-determination, providing for our children.

It has been just over a decade since the signing of the Political Accord in August 2000, the political landscape has improved across Mi'gma'gi. Throughout all the districts, in



Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, as well as here, in our three communities, Mi'gmaq are relentlessly pursuing their inherent right to self-government and are engaged in the Comprehensive Claim Process.

I encourage you to read more about what your Assembly is pursuing on your behalf. Listen to the videos and read what the Mi'gma'wei Mawiomis Secretariat has produced so that you can reflect upon and better understand what the leadership is pursuing on behalf of our children.

Cordially yours,

Troy Jerome
Executive Director - Nutewistog

Who we are

At the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat, there are 3 Units: Intergovernmental Relations, Consultation and Accommodation, and Operations. These units work toward the implementation of the mandates provided by the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi.

It is through the coordination of resources and people that we are able to host meetings such as our Mi'gmawei Mawiomi, Chief's Executive Committee, Mgnigng Working Group, Mgnigng Elders Circle, community consultation sessions and workshops such as the Emerging Leadership conference that was held in Gesgapegiag this Winter.

The Leadership and Management at the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat would like to thank the staff for all of their hard work throughout the year, and congratulate you on all of the successful events that were hosted in 2010-2011.

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Annual Report Credits

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Troy Jerome, Terri Lynn Morrison, Tanya Barnaby, Richard Jeanotte

Sitting with the governments of Canada and Québec over the past year, the Mi'gmaq Mgnigng has made significant progress on agreements, which are currently being finalized.

The Mi'gmaq Mgnigng is comprised of the following individuals:

- **Troy Jerome**, Executive Director/Nutewistog
- **Terri Lynn Morrison**, Associate Director of Intergovernmental Relations
- **Richard Jeannotte**, Legal Counsel
- **Tanya Barnaby**, Director of Consultation and Accommodation

Consultation and Accommodation Agreements

We are in the process of completing two separate agreements on Consultation and Accommodation at a Tripartite and Bilateral level with the province. Recently, the table agreed to test the bilateral agreement with the province to identify if the process is acceptable before we finalize the agreement. As most other First Nations throughout the country, we are not satisfied with the level of consultation taking place throughout Gespe'gewa'gi. These Bilateral and Tripartite Agreements are a means set forth to bridge the gap between the Mi'gmaq and governments.

One of our challenges is getting Québec to identify the areas which they consider will have an impact on our Aboriginal rights and what triggers their duty to consult.

We continue to remind Québec that the courts state that the Crown has an obligation to consult First Nations on any development within an area that has an unresolved claim. Our Land Claim Summary (which is based on our claims research), once deposited, will provide more of a legal context for our position at the table. Hopefully, the Land Claim Summary will put Québec in a position to have an open mind when they are discussing the future of the Mi'gmaq in their province.

Framework Agreement

A Framework Agreement is being drafted at the table and it is near completion. Throughout the year, the MMS hosted a number of Lunch and Learn sessions to introduce the Framework Agreement to community members and to get some feedback on the subject matters contained within.

Essentially, a framework agreement is just that – a frame for the work. It is a document that outlines the intentions of the three governments to meet and discuss a number of topics over the coming years. This agreement has no impact on our Aboriginal, Inherent, or Treaty rights.

In order for the MM Leadership to have a thorough understanding of what elements should be incorporated into a Framework Agreement, the Mi'gmaq Mgnigng reviewed a number of existing Framework Agreements and presented a list to its advisory groups, the Mgnigng Working Group and the Mgnigng Elders Council.

Advisory Groups to the Mi'gmaq Mgnigng

The Mi'gmaq Mgnigng negotiating team works with two working groups, the Mgnigng Working Group and the Mgnigng Elders Council. These advisory groups were established specifically for the tripartite negotiations.

The Mgnigng Working Group is comprised of the following individuals:

- **Quentin Condo**, Gesgapegiag
- **Catherine Johnson**, Gesgapegiag
- **Kevin Langlois**, Gespeg
- **Terry Shaw**, Gespeg
- **Delphine Metallic**, Listuguj
- **Jeff Basque**, Listuguj

Throughout the year, the Mgnigng Working Group met a number of times and participated in several workshops. The role of this group is to process the details of our agreements and to flush out subjects in order to prepare recommendations for the Assembly. Topics that the Mgnigng Working Group discussed ranged from the Framework Agreement with Canada and Québec (including the topics within) to the reduction in snow crab quota in 2010.

Another key group that supports the negotiations is the Mgnigng Elders Circle. The Mgnigng Elders Circle's role is to ensure that a Mi'gmaq worldview is maintained in all of the discussions that we have at the tripartite table.

This year, the Elders Circle provided input into a research report prepared by Dr. Fred Metallic on Mi'gmaq Law; as well, the Elders Circle provided a Mi'gmaq name for the Framework Agreement, Niganiljoga'tagan, which means "things that were put into place ahead of time or even ahead of other things".

The Mgnigng Elders Circle had an unexpected loss this year, the passing of one of its original members Mr. Paul Martin from Gesgapegiag. Paul spent his final days with us in a Mi'gmawei Mawiomi meeting in Listuguj and we were all saddened by his passing. His contributions to the group will be missed.

The Mgnigng Elders Council is comprised of the following individuals:

- **Bernard (Pnnal) Jerome**, Gesgapegiag – Chair
- **Harry Condo**, Gesgapegiag
- **Lyman Laroque**, Gesgapegiag
- **Beatrice Coffin**, Gespeg
- **Ella Adams**, Gespeg
- **John Isaac**, Listuguj
- **Linda Brisk**, Listuguj
- **Ike Metallic**, Listuguj

The time spent with the Elders not only gives us confidence in the work that we are doing at the Tripartite table, but it also gives us strength knowing that the Elders are with us throughout this process.

Looking Forward

The highlight of the year is the near completion of the Framework Agreement. This signifies that we are ready to begin negotiations with the end goal being interim or incremental

agreements that will advance the Mi'gmaq in Gespe'gawa'gi whether it be through greater access to resources, co-management of rivers and forests, greater access to funding to promote culture and heritage, or economic development in the region, to name a few. These are the interests of our community members, and we are working hard to bring some tangibles to the communities.

It is important to realize that these processes do not get resolved overnight, but we are making progress. When we look back over the past ten years, when the MMS was created, it is with great pride that I can say that we have come a long way. We have done our research, and we are ready to deposit our findings to governments. We established a relationship amongst the three Mi'gmaq communities of Listuguj, Gesgapegiag, and Gespeg, and we have agreed to work together as a Nation.

On behalf of the Mi'gmaq Mgnigng, I would like to say it is an honour to work for the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi, its leadership and its citizens. We look forward to having an opportunity to meet and talk with each of you throughout the upcoming year.



Terri Lynn Morrison
Associate Director of
Intergovernmental Relations

Intergovernmental

A link between our communities, our leadership, and the governments of Canada and Québec



Troy Jerome, Jill Metallic, Terri Lynn Morrison, Andrew Lavigne, Laura Johnson. *Missing from photo:* Christy Metallic

The Intergovernmental Relations Unit was created during the organization's restructuring, which took place in September of 2010. This Unit exists to create a link between our communities, our leadership and the governments of Canada and Québec.

Another important role of the Intergovernmental Relations Unit is to develop an understanding about the Mi'gmaq in Gespe'gewa'gi, to capture that history, and to share it with the communities and governments.

Finally, the Unit is facilitating processes, which will enable the Mi'gmaq to decide how we want to move forward in the reconciliation process we are currently in with Canada and Québec at the Tri-Partite table. By using various facilitation tools, the MMS has been able to gather valuable

information from community members with respect to how they want to see the future of the Mi'gmaq in Gespe'gewa'gi.

In order for the Unit to stay focused in its work, four strategic objectives were developed to guide decision making in the Unit.

1. **Mawlugutigw** – Everyone working together and getting past our differences
2. **Nation Building** – Advancing Community Interests
3. **Mi'gmaq Rights & Title**
4. **Reconciliation & Coexistence** – Tri-Partite negotiations

Some key initiatives undertaken by the Intergovernmental Relations Unit since its creation include:

Mi'gmaq History Month

October is recognized as Mi'gmaq History Month throughout Mi'gmaq territory and this is undoubtedly the busiest time for the Unit in terms of visiting members of Listuguj, Gespeg and Gesgapegiag. During the month, we shared ideas and discussed Mi'gmaq history, treaties, principles and our future with community members.

On September 30th and October 1st, we held two presentations with classes at the Sugarloaf Senior High School in Campbellton, NB. Our guest speaker was Elder William Jerome who shared his teachings on Mi'gmaq spiritual objects and roles they played during peace agreements.

Throughout the month, other activities revolved around the 1760 Peace Treaty Re-enactment Video, including: eight classroom presentations given at the Listuguj Alaqsite'w Gitpu (100 students); and presentations at student assemblies at Gespeg Elementary (120 students) and Gesgapegiag Wejgwapniag school (85 students). As well, Elder and community presentations were held in Gespeg, Gesgapegiag and Listuguj.

We also presented a video of a Re-enactment of the 1760 Peace Treaty signing that occurred in Listuguj at SSHS in front of the student assembly on October 1st.

Also, during the month of October the MMS, along with students from Gesgapegiag and Listuguj, were invited to see the newly installed Mi'gmaq Panels at the Battle of Restigouche Historic Site in Cross Point, Quebec. All the text, artist work and audio were coordinated and produced by the MMS, after years of collaboration with Parks Canada.

Students from Listuguj and Gesgapegiag were also brought to visit the Windmill Farm in Carleton on October 14th. The purpose of this visit was to bring the students out on our territory so that they can see first hand the employment opportunities that exist within this industry.

Lunch & Learn Community Sessions

During the fall, community events were organized, including Lunch & Learn sessions. We facilitated discussions about what the community members would like to see for their communities within the subject matters of the Framework Agreement. We will go into more depth about what community members are saying on the subject matters in the Mgnigng Annual Report on page 8.

It is important that when we are making recommendations to the leadership about next steps, and where priority should be given within the comprehensive claims process, that the negotiating team has a pulse on community members' aspirations.

Meetings with Leadership, Elders, Community Members and Youth

In order for the MMS to advance any of the files, a mandate is required from either the Chiefs' Executive Committee or the Mi'gmawei

Mawiomi. The Unit coordinated a number of meetings this year with the leadership to discuss the Framework Agreement with Canada and Québec, the Mi'gmaq Wind file, the Land Claim Summary, Mi'gmaq Fisheries and Taxation, to name a few.

During a special meeting held in March, the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi, along with experts from each of the communities, came together at a Mi'gmaq Fisheries Visioning session. At this session, the group discussed the reduction in snow crab quota and the lack of meaningful consultation with the Mi'gmaq. The group developed a plan to address these issues with other First Nations in the Atlantic, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and other related partners.

An Emerging Youth Forum was hosted in conjunction with the National Center for First Nation Governance, over a two-day period in Gesgapegiag during the winter months. This was a first gathering of its kind for the three communities and it provided an opportunity for our youth to get to know their brothers & sisters from their neighbouring communities. Their collective priorities include:

1. Sharing our Mi'gmaq Culture
2. Education and Mi'gmaq Language
3. Having our own Mi'gmaq constitution

On the subject of a Mi'gmaq constitution, the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi participated in a workshop,

Constitution Development, facilitated again by the National Center for First Nations Governance. This session highlighted that the leadership is not satisfied with the status quo and there is a desire to change. When we looked at other constitutions developed throughout Canada, we were able to identify subject matter that would be relevant to the Mi'gmaq in Gespe'gawa'gi. Over the coming year, we anticipate having further discussions with the leadership, youth, and community members on the subject of constitution development.

Keeping Informed

In an effort to reach out to our members, the MMS has created a Facebook fan page. I would like to invite each of you to "Like" the site by visiting www.facebook.com/migmawei to become a fan and receive updates about activities taking place in your community or area. We would also encourage you to visit our website, www.migmawei.ca, which will be re-vamped by August of 2011. The aim of this site is to provide you with a vast amount of information about the Gespe'gawa'gi Claims Process.



Terri Lynn Morrison
Associate Director of
Intergovernmental Relations

Consultation & Accommodation

Present in the communities



Myrna Sook, Derek Hayes, Hank Condo, Tanya Barnaby, Sherry Condo
Missing from photo: Lori Ann Martin

The Consultation and Accommodation Unit (C&A) has closed its second fiscal year. In this second year of operations, the unit spent more time with the citizens of Gespe'gewa'gi. We held several public education sessions on the duty to consult and the process in which we develop the files.

The Consultation & Accommodation Unit continued to receive consultation requests from the Ministère de Ressources Naturelle et de la Faune (MRNF) and processes those requests in several steps, depending on the importance of the file.

The C&A unit has worked hard to improve the timelines for requests. As well, spending a significant time addressing these consultation requests with technical experts, leadership and Mi'gmaq citizenship.

Staff

The unit currently staffs 5 positions; Director, two Program Administrators, a Technical Liaison Administrator and an administrative assistant.

Consultation Structure

In this second year, our focus has shifted somewhat from developing procedures to being present in the communities, discussing issues of consultation & accommodation and how this process can serve as a tool to following through on consultations.

We continue to work to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our policies and procedures to ensure the files are processed properly.

It is critical in our work that when we consult in the communities, we have the best knowledge possible to ensure the files are understood and informed opinions can be given. We do this with the help of the Technical Advisory Committee, which is made up of Forestry experts of the



three Mi'gmaq communities. This table has been mandated by the Mi'gmawei Mawioimi to provide advice and insight on how to proceed with each of the files.

Community Involvement

One of the most important aspects of the duty to consult by the government and the role of the Consultation & Accommodation Unit is the inclusion and involvement of the Mi'gmaq people. The decisions taken by MRNF affect the territory and the territory's people who are the Mi'gmaq.

To this end, it is critical that the communities guide the work of the Consultation & Accommodation



Unit. Community sessions are always ongoing. Our citizens are the force that drives this process and their input is critical to any reaction to the consultation files.

MRNF

The main purpose of the Consultation & Accommodation Unit is to work with Ministère de Ressources Naturelle et de la Faune (MRNF) on the consultation requests that come for the three Mi'gmaq communities of Gespe'gewa'gi.

The Consultation & Accommodation Unit continues to hold monthly meetings with representatives from MRNF to discuss the upcoming plans, requests and how best to manage the relationship between MMS and MRNF.

CRE/CRNT

The Conference Regionale des Elues (CRE) and the Commission des Ressources Naturelles et Territoire (CRNT) continue to develop plans and

projects within Gespe'gewa'gi that dramatically affect the Mi'gmaq. Because of this, it is important for the Mi'gmaq to be aware of what is happening at those meetings.

By mandate from the Mi'gmawei Mawiom, the MMS has put a technical liaison administer in place to participate with observer status at all the regional tables. Their responsibilities include attending the meetings under the CRNT and producing reports and summaries of the findings and report those to the director of the Consultation & Accommodation Unit.

Communications

Communications remains our biggest challenge. The uniqueness of our territory makes communicating with our citizens a task that can be daunting at times.

We continue to work at this process. We are in the communities as often as possible to inform them of our work and how important it is to have community input. Communications in Consultation & Accommodation is key.



The Environment

All of the files that make up the Consultation & Accommodation Unit have effects on the environment. As keepers of the territory of Gespe'gewa'gi, it is the Mi'gmaq's responsibility to ensure that the actions of industry and the government are not having an irreversible effect on the environment, and more specifically to our watersheds. We work closely with environmental experts to gauge the footprint industry is having on our territory.

Sincerely,

Tanya Barnaby
Director of C & A Unit

End of an era within the Research Unit at the MMS



This year marked the end of an era within the Research Unit at the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat. After approximately ten years of funding from the federal government under its research initiatives to support our claim to Gespe'gewa'gi, the federal government concluded that we have sufficient evidence to support our claim. In 2009/2010, they sent our office notice that they would be ending the funding program that supports the Wesgijnuualuet initiative. Further, the government requested that the MMS submit research that has been conducted to date at the end of the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Releasing Research

The Research Advisory Management Committee, in conjunction with the Communications Unit, developed a plan to review and release research findings in our communities as well as to the federal government.

First, a legal review was conducted on the thirty-four research reports produced for MMS to determine what information could be released, and where additional research was required.

Then, four research reports were summarized and we produced a series of four user-friendly booklets, highlighting key research findings.

1. Mi'gmewey Politics, Mi'gmaq Political Traditions (2002)
Author: Fred Metallic and Robert Cavanaugh
2. Negotiating Traditional Governance in Gespe'gewa'gi in the early 1900's (2004)
Author: Fred Metallic
3. Reconceptualization of Mi'gmaq Governance (2006)
Author: Fred Metallic and Amy Chamberlin

We also shared research findings visually. A poster was created to highlight the toponomy found in the "Archaeology of the New Brunswick sector of Gespe'gewa'gi" (2002) report written by Kevin Leonard.

In order to provide a snapshot of the work that has been done for the toponomy (place name) research, we produced a video titled Toponomy in Gespe'gewa'gi. This video, prepared for distribution in the three communities, is available on our Youtube page.

Research Activities

The toponomy research that was conducted under the Traditional Use Study (TUS) over a number of years has verified that there are 298 place names throughout Gespe'gewa'gi. The place-name information compiled under the TUS study was plotted on maps, showing the exact location of the sites named. Our Mi'gmaq place names tell our history. Place names express the relationship between a people and the environment.

Here are a few translated place names:

English	Mi'gmaq	Literal Translation
Port-Daniel	Eps'gneg	'place where a warm wind blows'
Pabos	Papoq	'calm pool of water'
Lac Maillard	Ugjigapa'jg	'tide lake'

This year, we began the 'ground-truthing' research of the place names. Ground-truthing is a lot of work and involves several people. Specifically, to validate the information we took a local community member, a forestry GIS technician, and an MMS staff person to the area. Upon arriving at the location, the team placed a stake in the ground with the Mi'gmaq place name written on it; then, 360-degree pictures were taken. The GIS technician plotted the place-name coordinates on the map, which

was signed to verify that the ground-truthing activity had taken place. We will continue with the ground-truthing research throughout this year, until we have verified all 298 place names in Gespe'gewa'gi. To date, we have successfully completed the ground-truthing process for thirty-seven places names in Gespe'gewa'gi.

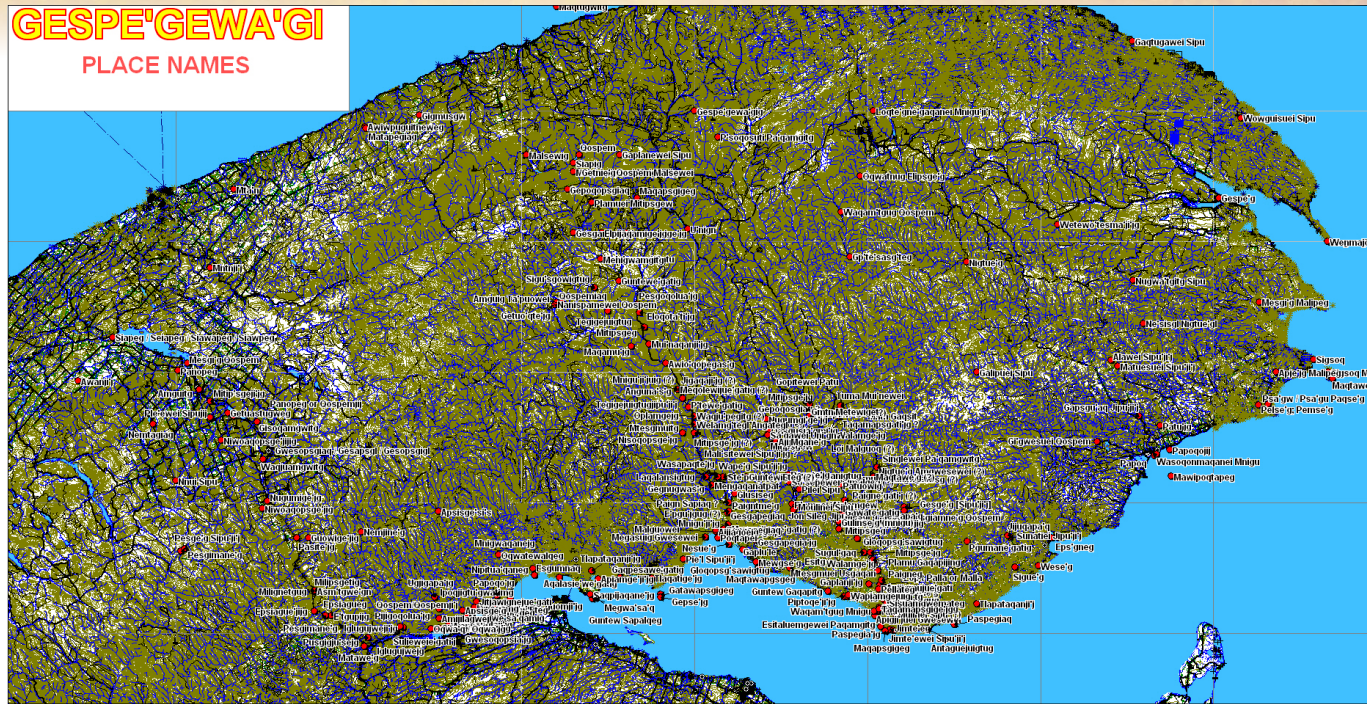
Research Council Meeting

In late 2010, the Secretariat hosted a Research Council Meeting, which brought together former researchers, Elders, leadership and staff to discuss the research findings and the federal government's request to produce a report summarizing all of our research.

During this two-day event, a number of workshops were conducted. I had the privilege of facilitating one session entitled, "What do we want to tell the world about the Mi'gmaq from Gespe'gewa'gi"? In summary, the group of Elders and leaders who participated in this circle stated that the report must address these questions: Who are the Mi'gmaq of Gespe'gewa'gi? Why are we here? What is our connection to the territory? Participants stated that we need to elaborate on "why we feel the way we do", "why we are different from other societies," and "how our ancestors protected us by negotiating treaties hundreds of years ago."

After the Research Council Meeting, the Secretariat retained the services of three writers who are working on compiling all of the research material that was conducted for the MMS into one book, which we are currently referring to

GESPE'GEWA'GI PLACE NAMES



as our "Nta'tugwaqnmīnen - Our Story." The book will be comprised of seven chapters and touches upon various topics such as the Mi'gmaq Creation Story, international relations, Mi'gmaq treaties, governmental policies, and the Nm'tginen, to name a few. This report, once completed, will be used as an education tool for all those who are interested in learning about the Mi'gmaq of Gespe'gewa'gi and who we are today. We look forward to sharing the report with you in the next year.

Concluding Comments

In closing, I would like to thank all those who have worked with the MMS over the past decade to ensure that we had thorough research to

support our claim. Without the commitment of the researchers, the Elders who participated in many interviews, the staff who organized all of the data and the leadership who supported this initiative, we would not be in a position to tell the governments of Canada and Québec that we were here and we are not going anywhere, as confidently as we can today.

Terri Lynn Morrison
Associate Director of
Intergovernmental Relations



Lisa Saumur, Jenn Jerome, Chastity Mitchell, Juliette Barnaby, Philippe Leblanc *Missing from photo: Walter Brisk*

This year is extremely special because the Secretariat is marking its ten-year anniversary. As you will read throughout this report, we have been productive in moving ahead, keeping in mind the following strategic objectives: communities coming along, asserting in the territory, access to resources and filling in the boxes to win.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as one of the long-standing members of the MMS. My tenth year with the

Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat has been nothing less than rewarding. I have enjoyed working with a team that prides itself in taking on new challenges and opportunities in building the vision for Gespe'gewa'gi.

As the Director of Operations, I understand the importance of administration and the specific organizational requirements and standards that are needed for documentation, procedures and operations. Quality management is vital for an organization focused on demonstrating its ability to consistently provide services that meet the communities' needs.

This year, the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi mandated that we re-organize our structure. As such, we incorporated Finance into the Operational Unit, which allows for a new dynamic. Operations is responsible for overseeing the overall functions of the Secretariat, ensuring effective administrative systems and sound fiscal management.

We continue to manage multiple files, including: on-going liaising with governments, proposals, funding agreements, contracts, revise & implementing policies and systems, human resources, strategic planning and capacity building, to name a few. We also

continue to support activities, which promote the advisory services under the Tribal Council Initiative.

The Secretariat also works in collaboration with communities' development centers. Specifically, we identify and promote training, sponsorship, and employment opportunities. The main goal is to provide valuable work experience for community members and at the same time strengthen our on-going efforts to improve our organizational capacity.

As part of our commitment to remain accountable to the membership, we coordinate and liaise with the communities to set out plans for our Annual General Assemblies. As well, the MMS collaborates with the respective councils to establish the criteria for the recognition of the Honored Elder and the MMS Scholarship Awards.

We continue to keep the Mi'gmaq Writers Award (MWA) alive by securing a sponsor year after year. The MWA is an annual initiative of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi. This initiative shows our commitment to recruit promising young talent, showcasing the writers of Gespe'gewa'gi. As we have always passed down our teachings through

storytelling, we felt that there was a need to uncover notable artists who possess an interest expressing themselves through stories. Our proud sponsor for the MWA is Cartier Wind Energy.

Finance Update

The Executive Finance Committee met quarterly over the last year to review our financial standings for fiscal 2010-2011, as well as other agreements and projects.

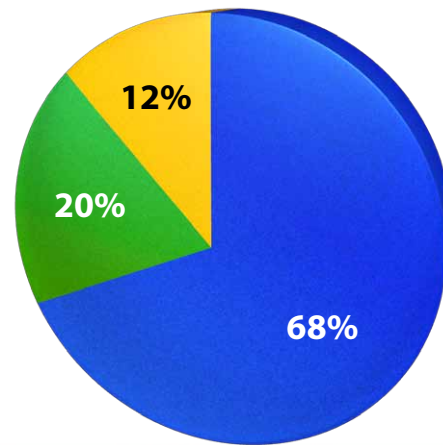
The Statement of Revenue and Expenses – Year ended March 31, 2011 and other fiscal information were prepared with the objective of upholding the integrity and objectivity of the Secretariat.

The management of the MMS maintains a system of internal accounting controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial records accurately reflect the organization's operations and that the organization's assets are protected against loss. These controls assure the quality in the financial records in several ways: maintaining an organizational structure that provides a fitting distribution of financial responsibilities and communicating

financials and other relevant policies throughout the organization.

Independent auditors were retained to assess and express an opinion of the Secretariat's financial standings. The financial statements in this report have been audited by Raymond Chabot, Grant Thornton (RCGT) Chartered Accounts, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards.

MMS Funding Sources



- Negotiations Preparedness Initiative
- Tribal Council
- Consultation & Accommodation

In closing, I am looking forward to another eventful year working with the communities of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg and Listuguj. Working together, Mawlugutigw, we can achieve great success in moving our Nation forward.

At this time, I would like to thank the team and fellow management for their continued support.

For more information, we encourage you to visit our website at www.migmawei.ca or join our Facebook page for the latest updates.

Wela'lin

Chastity Mitchell
Director of Operation

Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Accumulated Surplus

Year ended March 31, 2011

	INAC	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expense	Current Surplus (Deficit)	Adjusted Prior Year Surplus (Deficit)	Cumul. Surplus (Deficit)
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
01045 Consultation and policy development - Governance						(2,719)	(2,719)
01145 Tribal Council Funding	261,680	53,756	315,436	295,415	20,021	82,649	102,670
01360 Comprehensive Claims Submission		306,117	306,117	306,117		(21,733)	(21,733)
01370 Negotiations Preparedness Initiative Funding	1,245,712	(312,490)	933,222	931,852	1,370	4,553	5,923
01680 Federal Initiative on Consultation						(93)	(93)
04877 Land and resources development	157,755		157,755	157,755			
63000 Web site project						(15,869)	(15,869)
65000 Consultation Process - MRNF		295,337	295,337	288,287	7,050		7,050
66000 Parks Canada		4,689	4,689	4,689			
82000 VCACT		68,192	68,192	68,192			
91000 Toponymie		17,703	17,703	17,703			
Discontinued projects						64,878	64,878
	<u>1,665,147</u>	<u>433,304</u>	<u>2,098,451</u>	<u>2,070,010</u>	<u>28,441</u>	<u>111,666</u>	<u>140,107</u>

Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat

Financial Position

March 31, 2011

Financial assets

Accounts receivable	490,599
	<u>490,599</u>

Non financial assets

Fixed assets	156,194
	<u>646,793</u>

Liabilities

Bank overdraft	41,791
Bank loan	70,000
Accounts payable	266,942
Deferred revenues	127,953
	<u>506,686</u>

Surplus

Accumulated surplus	140,107
	<u>646,793</u>