

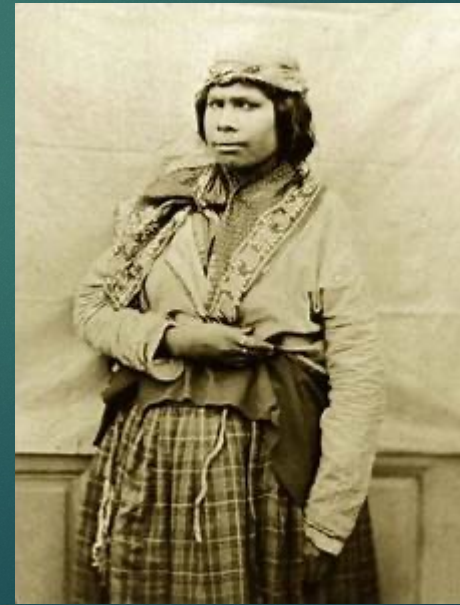


PEOPLE OF THE DAWN
INDIGENOUS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

PJILITA'Q - WELCOME ALL



A Glimpse into Ktaqmkuk Mi'kmaw History



Indigenous Peoples of Newfoundland

- ▶ The Island of Newfoundland “Ktaqmkuk” is part of the traditional territory of the Mi’kmaw and Beothuk Peoples. The Beothuk are believed to have become culturally extinct since 1829. The Mi’kmaq are represented by two Federally recognized Bands:

Miawpukek First Nation (Conne River) and

Qalipu First Nation (A landless band representing 67 communities throughout the Island).

* There are also many non-status Mi’kmaw Bands and organizations throughout Newfoundland that are not recognized by the federal Govt. They operate on a local level to focus on the individual needs of their community members.

The Mi’kmaw name for Newfoundland is Ktaqmkuk. Mi’kmaw territory also includes most all of Atlantic Canada as well as parts of Maine in the USA.

Nujio'qonik

- The Bay St. George Region

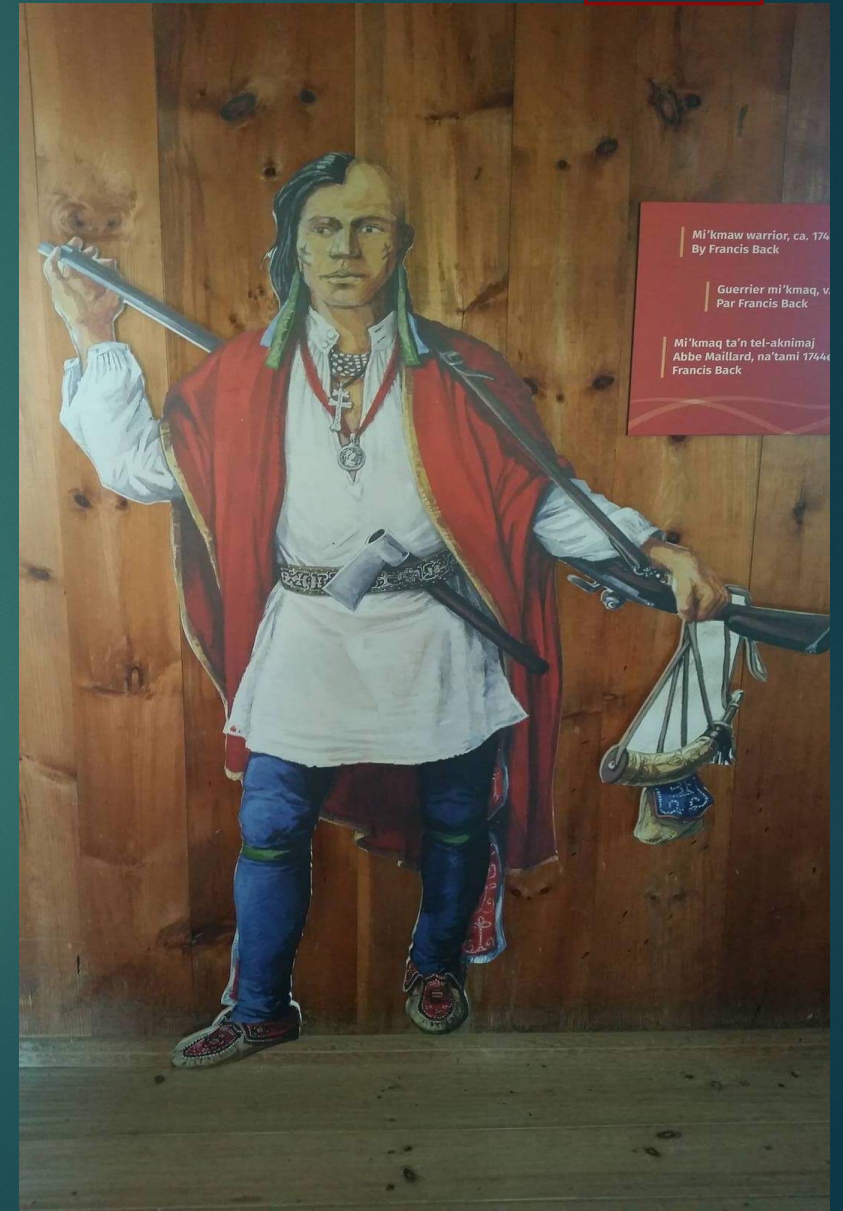



Photo:
1859, St. George's

Historic Mi'kmaw leaders with a strong connection to Ktaqmkuk:

- ▶ Chief Jeannot Pequidalouet-

Jeannot lived primarily in what is now known as Cape Breton (Unima'ki), however he lived Seasonally hunting and fishing in Newfoundland (Ktaqmkuk) 1762-1768.





Chief Pequidalouet spent much of his time throughout South Western Newfoundland, including what is now known as the Cape Ray / Codroy Valley area. Katalisk is the Mi'kmaw name for the region.

Between the years of 1762 to 1768 Chief Jeannot Pequidalouet made the summer site of Miawpukek (Conne River, located on the South Coast) a permanent settlement. • The first district Chief Morris Lewis, was given a gold medal by the Grand Council at that time. • By 1870, Ktaqmkuk became a separate district.

(Source: Miawpukek First Nation AFOA National Conference 2014).

Grand Council Medal



ORIGINAL 1860's
Medal given to
Chief Morris
Lewis

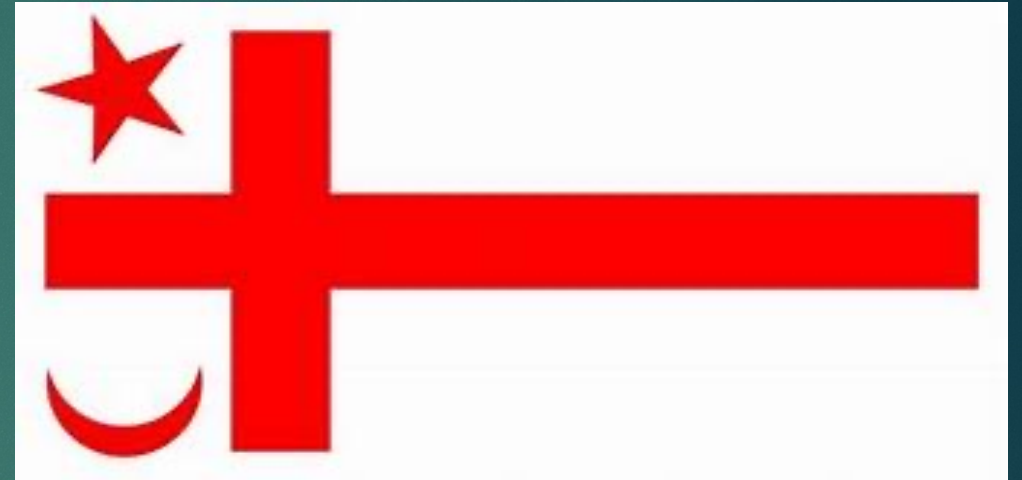


(A replica was made for Chief Misel Joe, Traditional
Chief of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) 1983).



The Mi'kmaq Grand Council flag / Sante' Mawio'mi

The Grand Council flag was first raised in Listuguj QC in 1900. It is often referred to as the “Mi'kmaq Flag”.



Who we were, and who we are TODAY:



Chief Mi'sel Joe- Miawpukek First Nation



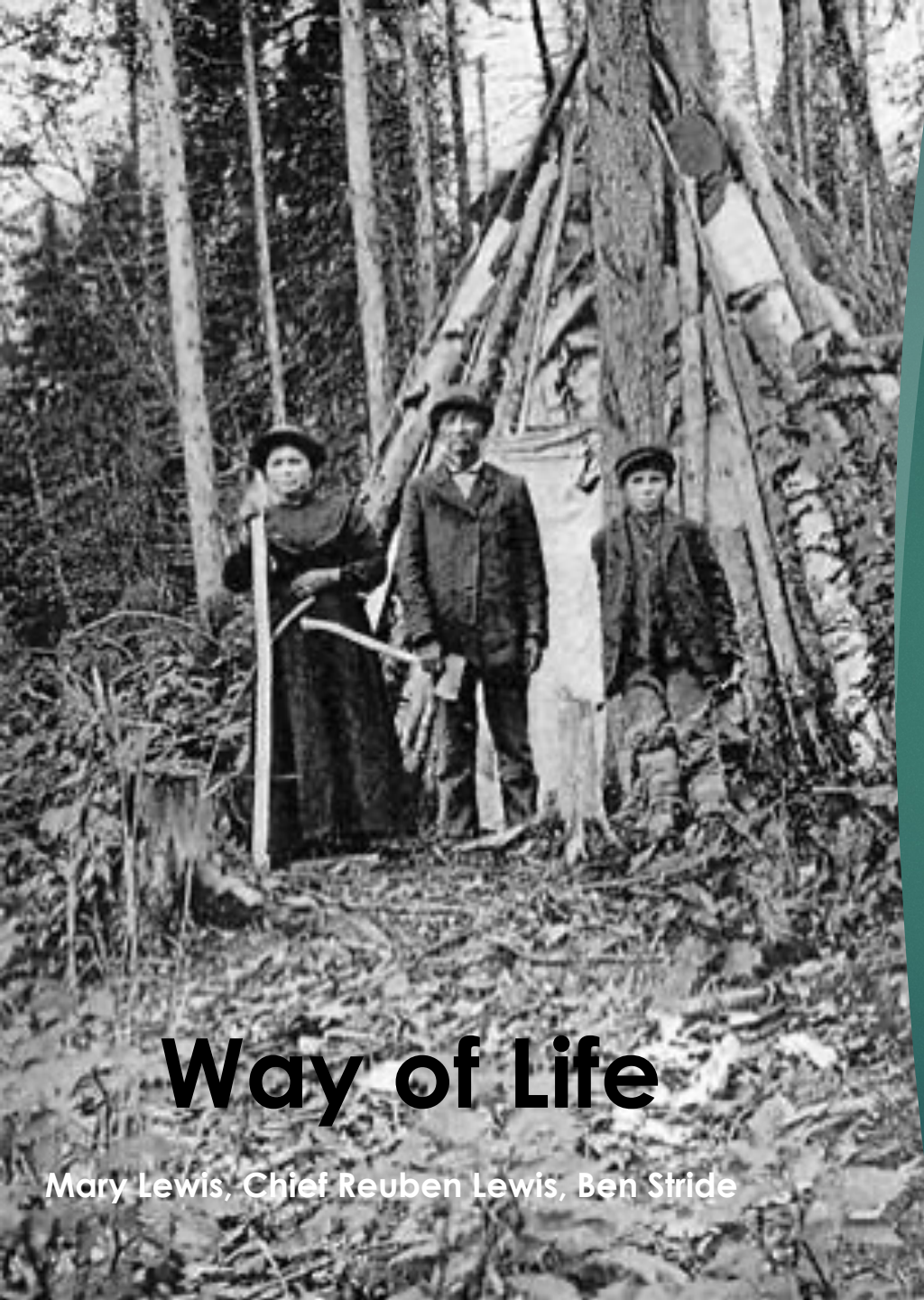
Mi'sel is from Conne River, Miawpukek First Nation and has been Chief since 1983.

In addition to being an Indian Act Chief, Misel is also the Traditional Chief of all of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland). Recognized by the Mi'kmaw Grand Council.

Chief Brendan Mitchell- Qalipu First Nation



Brendan is from Corner Brook (Elmastukwek), and is the Great-Grandson of Mattie Mitchell. He comes from a long line of Chiefs, his Father Jack Mitchell was once Chief of the Corner Brook Band (Federation of Newfoundland Indians).



Way of Life

Mary Lewis, Chief Reuben Lewis, Ben Stride

- ▶ For generations the people of this land have had an inter-dependent relationship with the environment and the animals. This relationship is also a spiritual one where there is a deep sense of respect and responsibility to care for it.
- ▶ At one time the Mi'kmaw were nomadic, following the seasons to harvest food from the Sea, lakes, and rivers in the summer, and venturing inland in the fall for caribou and other fur bearing animals.
- ▶ When Newfoundland became a British Colony, and Colonialism swept across our territory, our way of life became threatened in many ways.
- ▶ Qalipu (Caribou), the herds fell from 200,000-300,000 in 1900 to near extinction by 1930. The effect on the Mi'kmaq was catastrophic.

Challenges to our way of life



- ▶ The Newfoundland Government neglect of Indigenous Rights and Food harvesting practices. On the Island, within a few generations, very few Mi'kmaq could speak their own language.
- ▶ Generations of Newfoundlanders were taught in School that the Mi'kmaq were hired by the French to kill Beothuks. This is known as the “Mercenary Myth”. To date, no evidence has ever been found to support these claims.
- ▶ In the 1840's, the term Jac-o-tar (Jack-A-Tar) was a label used by Euro-Newfoundlanders to put down a person who was of mixed French Acadian and Mi'kmaw ancestry. Many Priests changed French/Mi'kmaw family surnames to English versions to avoid the stigma.
- ▶ In the 1870's, Newfoundland Established 5 Colonial Reservations: Conne River, Codroy Valley (Grand River), Halls Bay, St. George's and Gambo. Only Conne River remains as a recognized Indian Reservation in Newfoundland. No mention of these earlier reserves were taught to Canadians.
- ▶ In 1949, when Newfoundland joined Canada, Premier Joseph Smallwood declared that there were no Indians in Newfoundland. Most Mi'kmaq didn't even know about Confederation. All of this done without any Mi'kmaw inclusion.

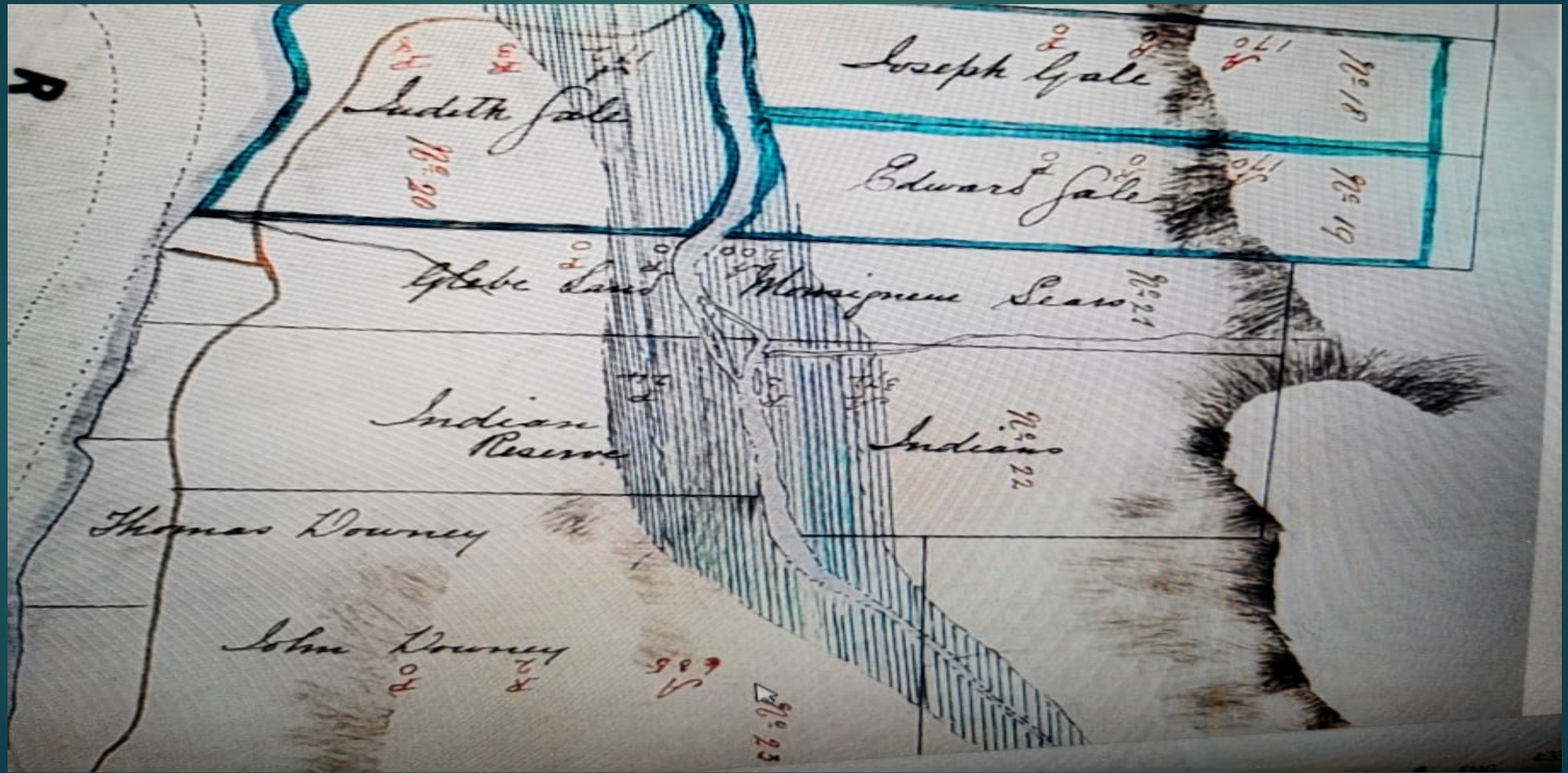
1823 Native Peoples Census Map



Source: The National Atlas of Canada 5th. Edition

Courtesy of Perry Young

1870 Codroy Valley/ Grand River Reservation





Mattie Mitchell

More Challenges.....

- ▶ Many people became more and more dependent on cash economy and the main occupations became farming, fishing, logging, and guiding. Many guides worked for the postal service and some worked for the establishment of the Newfoundland Railway.
- ▶ In the 1940's an American Airforce base was established in Stephenville bringing jobs and financial opportunities. However, along with that came further loss of identity, and social problems began to become more prevalent. The Harmon US Airforce base closed down in 1967.
- ▶ Smaller Mi'kmaq communities held on to some aspects to their traditional ways of living, such as trapping, hunting, and eel fishing. However only the community of Conne River was able to maintain the Mi'kmaq language because of their isolation. By the 1980's there were only a few fluent speakers left in Newfoundland.

A long road....

- ▶ Newfoundland & Labrador joined Canada in 1949 with no recognition or protection of the Rights of Indigenous peoples in this land.
- ▶ Since the 1970's, Indigenous people in Newfoundland and Labrador came together to secure their future as Indigenous people by forming what would become known as the Native Assoc. of NL and Lab.
- ▶ The Indigenous peoples of Labrador eventually separated to become their own entity to better represent their unique cultures and needs. For the Island portion, the organization then became known as the FNI, (Federation of Newfoundland Indians). Conne River eventually separated in order to form their reserve.
- ▶ 1983, April 21st.- Nine men from Conne River committed to hunger strike to bring attention to the violation of rights of their community by the Federal and Provincial Govt.s. The strike lasted until April 30th.
- ▶ Around 1984, the people of Miawpukek First Nation in Conne River was established Bringing federal Indian Status to that community. The other communities under the FNI were to be recognized shortly after, however this never happened.





Grand Chief Norman Sylliboy with Eva and Aaliyah Pike

- ▶ It was not until Sept. 22, 2011 that the other Mi'kmaq people living across Newfoundland received federal Indian Status recognition. The creation of the Qalipu First Nation band was established and currently is one of the largest First Nation bands in Canada.
- ▶ In 2019, The Mi'kmaq Grand Council was invited by Qalipu First Nation and Miawpukek First Nation to come to Ktaqmkuk in the spirit of healing and unity. The Grand Chief and council were welcomed in our own Mi'kmaq language.
- ▶ To date, there is a huge effort to restore the Mi'kmaq language, traditional songs, dances, and the Arts. Caring for the land and water are paramount values for a thriving future, and more and more communities are embracing their Indigenous roots and values, creating more visibility in the region.

Where do we go from here?

- ▶ We are bringing more visibility into our schools, hospitals, and communities, we are working hard to provide access to learn and protect our Mi'kmaw culture and language. We are working hard to overcome the generations of colonial trauma which continues to fragment our identity, our sense of self, and our unity as Mi'kmaw people.
- ▶ We are preserving our original place names, harvesting sites, and protecting those sites from ecological harm.
- ▶ We continue to improve our relationships in a respectful way with all communities throughout our territory, other Indigenous Nations and groups, as well as ALL peoples and governments that we share our traditional homelands with.

Positive changes

- ▶ On Oct. 29th. 2021, Nova Scotia recognized the formal designation of Mi'kmaw as a First Official Language. This is a huge win in language preservation. Maybe the Island portion of Newfoundland & Labrador might consider doing the same?
- ▶ Qalipu First Nation and Miawpukek First Nation contribute millions of Federal dollars into the local economy each year. This extends into all surrounding communities throughout the region.
- ▶ The NLESD with support of Qalipu First Nation and its partners have been working on changing the school curriculum to reflect the history of the Indigenous peoples in our region as well as to normalize the culture within our schools. This is very exciting as many of our schools have large populations of Indigenous students, and all students will get to learn and experience the cultures Indigenous to this land.

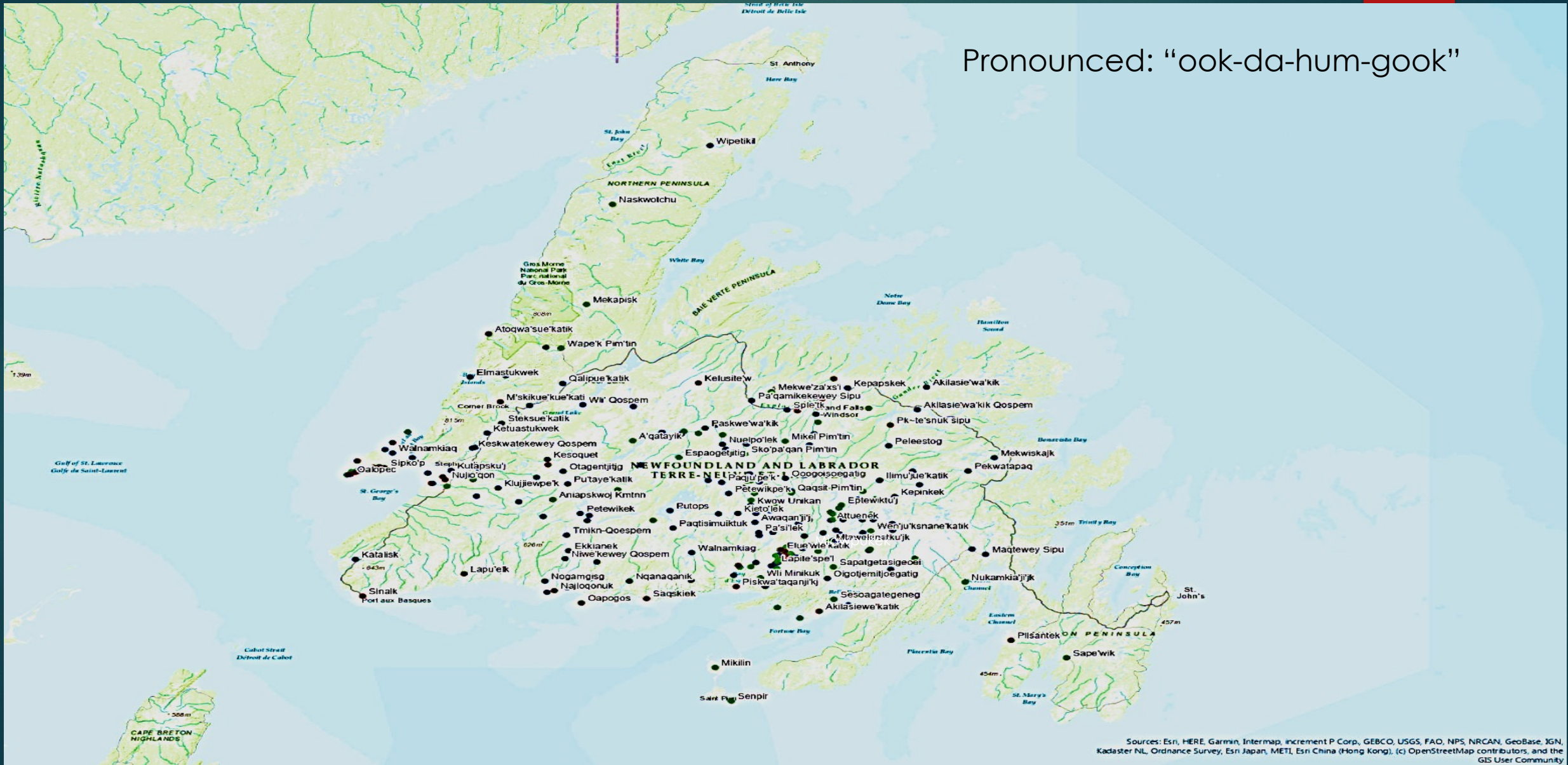
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- ▶ Tourism in NL is starting to realize that Cultural Tourism with Indigenous communities has a lot to offer the locals as well as visitors. **“Experience Qalipu”** is just one entity working hard with the province to create an authentic world class platform with more visibility and opportunities to share Mi’kmaw culture with the world.
- ▶ In recent years, the province has implemented a regular meeting with Indigenous leadership, Tribal Governments and organizations, it’s called the “Premier’s Round Table”. Healthy communication and inclusion is an important part of Reconciliation, and this is a positive step forward.

Ktaqmkuk Map 2021

(Image provided courtesy of Qalipu Natural Resources, Qalipu First Nation).

Pronounced: "ook-da-hum-gook"



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, JGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong). (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Wela'lioq - Thank you all.

