

NOVA SCOTIA NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

February 2021 Newsletter



A MESSAGE FROM KAREN PICTOU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NSNWA

Pusu' Puna'ne. Happy New Year. I would like to take this time to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. The holiday season looked very different for many Nova Scotians with Covid-19 restrictions limiting travel and gathering sizes. The Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia had their first reported cases of Covid-19 on reserve. The staff of the NSNWA moved seamlessly in the fall and winter between working from downsized on-site offices to working from home as health and safety concerns required. I am pleased to provide the following updates and announcements on current NSNWA projects:

Congratulations to Chief Annie Bernard-Daisley!

The NSNWA President, Annie Bernard-Daisley, was elected as Chief of We'koqma'q. Chief Bernard-Daisley made history as the first female Chief of We'koqma'q. She will be a great role model for Indigenous women in Nova Scotia.

Off-Reserve Cape Breton Reaching Home Project

We received funding through the Reaching Home Fund to address homelessness of Indigenous people in off reserve Cape Breton. The NSNWA Off-Reserve Cape Breton Reaching Home Project will work to address many of the emergent issues Indigenous people are experiencing due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as assist our organization in providing direct frontline services in a safe and effective manner. This project will benefit Indigenous Women, Men, 2SLGBTQQIA and their families living off-reserve in Cape Breton. Project activities will include, food security, transportation, emergency housing support, childcare supports, and mental health supports. We also have been provided an employee at the Cape Breton Sub-office from the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre for a Housing Support Coordinator.

NSNWA Sub-Office Now Open in Sydney!

We officially opened and moved our Sydney Sub-Office to a larger space located in the same building as the Jane Paul Indigenous Resource Centre.

MMIWG Calls to Justice – A Forward Path

NSNWA hosted an engagement session for MMIWG Calls to Justice to identify how the process will develop. The engagement session aimed to highlight work underway, develop a work plan, and identify an advisory committee.

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- The NSNWA has received \$386,376, from the Departments of Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development to develop a Nova Scotia Indigenous strategic action plan to address and prevent Human Trafficking (p. 2).
- Millbrook and Paqtnek Election Notices (p. 4).
- Jane Paul Indigenous Women's Resource Centre updates (p. 5).
- Updates from Chapter Presidents (pgs. 7-8)
- Introducing new NSNWA staff members (pgs. 9-11).

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTINUED



Nova Scotia Indigenous Human Trafficking Prevention Strategy

The NSNWA has received \$386,376, from the Departments of Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development to develop a Nova Scotia Indigenous Strategic Action Plan to address and prevent Human Trafficking. Throughout this 39-month project, the NSNWA will develop and implement intervention practices that will advance knowledge and enhance empowerment supports for at-risk populations and survivors of human trafficking in Nova Scotia. These practices will be created and delivered in a culturally relevant manner, utilizing Mi'kmaq language and methods as the foundation.



Funding announcement for the Nova Scotia Indigenous Strategic Action plan to address and prevent Human Trafficking on Friday, January 29.

Reproductive Health and Forced Sterilization Engagement

The NWAC has developed a Knowing Your Rights Toolkit: Sexual and Reproductive Health. This toolkit was developed in response to the forced or coerced sterilization of Indigenous women, advocates, experts, and leaders have since called for systemic, sweeping changes to the health care system. You can download the toolkit [here](#).

Feasibility Study for Resiliency Centre and Office Space for NSNWA

NSNWA has secured funding from provincial and federal funders to complete a feasibility study and complete the bidding phase. We meet in mid-February with funding agencies to secure the money needed to build the Resiliency Centre. The feasibility study examined five key areas: 1. Cultural significance and integration into space. 2. Economic development. 3. Agriculture. 4. Green energy; and 5. Functional programming. Comprehensive outreach was done with Mi'kmaq organizations and leadership across Nova Scotia for transparency and collaboration, and to safeguard against the duplication of services and/or infrastructure. All Mi'kmaq parties agreed that the NSNWA have an immediate capital need for a new office space. Jane Paul Indigenous Resource Centre 5-Year Strategic Plan.

A 5-year strategic plan has been developed for the Jane Paul Indigenous Resource Centre

This plan outlines the following: Critical issues faced by High Risk and Vulnerable Indigenous women. A description of the overall success for the Centre, including challenges and strengths. Priorities and goals of the centre. Results from a focus group session conducted with former staff of the JPIWRC, agencies that had partnered with the JPIWRC in the past, as well as, getting feedback from the women that have accessed the JPIWRC. The purpose of focus groups is to explore and generate new ideas based on group context and conversation.

NSNWA STAFF UPDATES



Justin Maloney

Employment/Economic Development Coordinator

We are gearing up to launch our Sistersness Trading Post website shortly. We are still looking for our Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs to register, they can do so with me at my email or via Facebook site "sistersness trading post". More info contact me at employment@nsnwa.ca.

Ellen Marshall

Events Manager and Public Relations Officer

Millbrook Women's Group Chapter Election notice: Wednesday

February 24, 2021

Nominations from 6-7 PM; Voting from 7-8 PM at the Millbrook Senior's Centre

Deputy Electoral Officer: Ellen Marshall, events@nsnwa.net

Paqtnkek Women's Group Chapter Election notice: Thursday

February 25, 2021

Nominations from 6-7 PM; Voting from 7-8 PM at the Paqtnkek Gymnasium

Deputy Electoral Officer: Ellen Marshall, events@nsnwa.net



Masks required and social distancing measures will be in place.

Vanessa Peckford

Human Resources Manager

We are pleased to announce our new staff hires for NSNWA:

- Kennedy Marshall, MMIWG Prevention Worker, was hired November 16, 2020. Kennedy works at the Jane Paul Indigenous Women's Resource Centre.
- Isabelle McKitterick, Director of Sexualized Violence Prevention and Systems Mobilization, was hired November 16, 2020 and works from our Truro location.
- Vanessa Peckford, Human Resources Manager/Executive Assistant, was hired November 16, 2020.
- Paula Robinson, Covid Coordinator, was hired November 30, 2020.
- Terri Walsh, Finance Clerk, was hired January 12, 2021.

We wish all our new hires a warm welcome and look forward to their continued contributions to NSNWA.

JANE PAUL INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE



KAREN BERNARD, DIRECTOR OF THE JANE PAUL INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE

As we strive to offer programming and other essential services to our clientele in a pandemic, this proves that nothing can stop us. The centre has been busy and is returning to a sense of normality. We have gone from a closed door provider due to COVID19 to an open door with programming workshops inhouse to a capped capacity of 10 people in the centre at any given time. Thorough COVID-19 screening methods are in place for all staff, visitors and clients coming to the JPIWRC or our NSNWA Sub-office which also relocated to 440 George Street in Suite 220 in November 2019. An opportunity came up with the perfect office space for the NSNWA Sub office to relocate. Housed in the NSNWA Sub-office will be the JPIWRC Director Karen Bernard Administrator, MNFC Housing Support Worker Marilyn Prosper, and the YWCA-NSTAY peer support worker.

The JPIWRC is officially up and running with our new MMIWG Prevention Worker Kennedy Marshall who works out of the centre from 1pm to 8pm daily Monday to Friday, Kennedy has been instrumental in formulating wonderful ideas for the benefits of our clients. She brings a positive attitude to the workplace and her enthusiasm to creating new partnerships with external organization has been valuable. Tiana Fusco, the clinical therapist has been a part of the centre for years, in the new year Tiana will be at the centre once every two weeks to offer her services in person once again. We also appreciate the efforts of our cleaner Karen Googoo who has been excellent in maintaining a high standard of cleanliness for the JPIWRC.

Student placements with different organizations and educational institutions has also been very helpful in their efforts to assisting us in the daily operations of the JPIWRC. Those partnerships have and will always be considered a valued partnership in our day to day operations as the student placements bring additional knowledge to us as well.



Jane Paul Indigenous Women's Resource Centre.



Karen Bernard, Director of the Jane Paul Indigenous Women's Resource Centre.

JANE PAUL INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE



As part of keeping clients and staff safe, the installation of safety barriers between computer stations, safety glass windows for the offices along with desktop safety barriers. Sanitizer stations are up, masks are available along with temperature checks in place along with a contact tracing sheet that must be signed. Prevention is the key to keeping COVID-19 at bay, any person feeling ill are not granted entry into the centre but can still receive services by giving us a call and we will do our best to fulfill their request.

As we are a non-profit organization, and with the funding we have received for these five years, it's still not enough for us to offer the quality programs we dream off. But with all the funding opportunities out there, we have been successful in applying for grants from multiple organizations in the province at a local and provincial level. With those funding dollars we are now able to host our Grandmothers Circle of Wisdom sessions, art therapy, ribbon skirts, Waltes resilience project, ceremonies and employment training skills in the new year 2021. We do accept donations of clothing, personal care items, food, books, along with monetary donations which goes to our operations and supplies budget. And on an end note, we send a gracious thank you to those who donated wonderful gift bags for our clients at Christmas. People like you who take the time to care deeply about the needs for the clients we service and from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.



Jane Paul Indigenous Women's Resource Centre.



Opening of the new centre on September 30, 2020.



Jane Paul Indigenous Women's Resource Centre.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENTS



Wanda Finigan

L'sitkuk First Nations Vice President

With the blessing of the executive of L'sitkuk Chapter NSNWA, I set up a Facebook page for the L'sitkuk Native Women's Group-Bear River Chapter. The Facebook page was set up to keep our members up-to-date on any events, activities and news within our First Nation community and to keep connected to each other, share whatever we wish with one another and offer feedback to any issues posted:

- I report events, activities, achievements, and news issues pertaining to Indigenous women, girls, boys and men.
- Reporting employment opportunities from local businesses and organizations for community members.
- Continue to report employment opportunities received from The Native Council of Nova Scotia website and Facebook page for off-reserve Indigenous people and community members residing on or off-reserve.
- Reporting issues concerning Covid-19.
- Posted photos of L'sitkuk grads of 2020 and reported educational achievements of L'sitkuk students.
- As some of our community members are of more than one nationality, I report issues that interrelate to their culture.
- Continue to report any news from CMM-membership clerk, Theresa Leblanc.
- I will continue to include on our Facebook page any and all issues pertaining to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- I also post events that are relevant to Indigenous artists, writers, poets, designers, performers, cake makers, etc.
- Any news from Bear River First Nation Health Centre is posted on our page as they do so much for our community.

Charlotte Denny

Eskasoni First Nations President

With the restrictions and poor internet, the Eskasoni Chapter hasn't held any activities or meetings. The limit to 10 people still stand. I look forward to when the restrictions are lessened and we can continue to do the great work in our community.

The position of Vice President is open.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENTS



Mary Poulette- Taylor

Paqtnkek First Nations President

Paqtnkek Women's Group Chapter Election will take place on Thursday, February 25, 2021
Nominations from 6-7 PM; Voting from 7-8 PM at the Paqtnkek Gymnasium
Deputy Electoral Officer: Ellen Marshall, events@nsnwa.net.

Marilyn Francis

L'sitkuk First Nations President

We hosted a 7 sacred teachings workshop on Zoom on January 28, 2021 for the Kespuwitk District L'nu Womens Group. Participants picked up the packages for the meeting from 21 Charles Avenue or called me to make arrangements for pick up.

We also hosted a Kespuwitk District L'nu Womens Group Meeting on Sunday, January 31 on Zoom.

Sunshine Paul-Martin,

Millbrook Chapter President

Millbrook Women's Group Chapter Election will take place on Wednesday February 24, 2021.

Nominations from 6-7 PM; Voting from 7-8 PM at the Millbrook Senior's Centre.
Deputy Electoral Officer: Ellen Marshall, events@nsnwa.net.

Candice Syliboy,

Off Reserve (Cape Breton) President

Our chapter organized a Chakra making workshop in December 2020.

**On Sunday January 31st. 2021
from 12PM to 2PM**

Kespuwitk District L'nu Women's Group
**hosts Native Womens
Zoom Meeting**

**HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/1
/81715021892**

ID MEETING: 4131019682
PASSCODE: 974643

2021 Election **Local Chapter &
NSNWA AGA**

**Youth Awareness:
self harm, 7 sacred teachings
COVID-19 Project, sisters in spirit**

Poster from the Kespuwitk District L'nu Womens Group meeting on January 31, 2021.



INTRODUCING KENNEDY MARSHALL MMIWG PREVENTION WORKER



Kennedy Marshall is a twenty-three-year-old Mi'kmaq woman from Membertou First Nation Reserve, Nova Scotia. She is the daughter of Vanessa Marshall and John Paul from Membertou and the stepdaughter of Wayne MacNeil of Big Pond, Nova Scotia. She is a sister to seven siblings, Tom, Merica, Addison, Reagan, Robert, John, and Ethan. She is a proud fur-mama to her fur-babies, Bear and Archie.

Kennedy is a recent graduate from Nova Scotia Community College Marconi

Campus' Social Services Program and is currently enrolled as a second-year student in their Therapeutic Recreation Program with the intent to graduate in June of 2021. Kennedy has recently been employed as the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Prevention Worker at the Jane Paul Indigenous Women's Resource Centre. In the past, Kennedy has worked as a Residential Rehabilitation Worker at Cornerstone Community Home Inc., as a Residential Counsellor at the Elizabeth Fry Society of Cape Breton, as an Over-Cost Funding Sitter at RC MacGillivray Guest Home, and as an Administrative Assistant at the Membertou Social Department.

Additionally, Kennedy has volunteered with a number of organizations within Cape Breton such as the Jane Paul Indigenous Women's Resource Centre, The LOVE Program, Youth Peer Program, NSCC Marconi Campus' Art Program, RC MacGillivray Guest Home, The Elizabeth Fry Society of Cape Breton, and Harboursstone Enhanced Care.

Through her various work and volunteer experience, Kennedy has been able to work closely with individuals that experience a variety of social issues such as poverty, discrimination, substance use and sexual violence.

Most recently, Kennedy has been appointed as the Student Director for Nova Scotia Community College on the Nova Scotia Therapeutic Recreation Association's Board of Directors.

She is a very kind, motivated, and empathetic individual that often overlooks how much she has to offer to her community and members of surrounding communities.



INTRODUCING ISABELLE MCKITTERNICK, DIRECTOR OF SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE PREVENTION SYSTEMS MOBILIZATION



Isabelle McKitterick was adopted at a young age and learned later in life through obtaining her child welfare documents that she is Indigenous. Unfortunately, specifics were unobtainable due to the fact that it was a closed adoption. This was her first experience with how the child welfare system has failed Indigenous children. However, this sparked her interest in learning more about Indigenous culture and lead to her volunteering with the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health in Ottawa. Through this volunteer work, Isabelle gained more perspective on Indigenous human rights issues in Canada. Isabelle is a graduate with Honours from the Social Service Worker Program at Algonquin College, which lead her to an undergraduate degree at Carleton University in Human Rights and Social Justice. Isabelle has focused the majority of

her undergraduate research on Indigenous human rights violations in Canada. She is expected to graduate from Carleton in December 2020. Isabelle's volunteer work has taken her to Malaysia where she completed an internship with the Women's Aid Organization and worked with women and children who had been human trafficked. Isabelle's most recent employment was with Total Communication Environment in Ottawa, where she was responsible for the total care of individuals with a variety of different needs. Through her schooling, work and volunteer positions, Isabelle has developed an interest in working towards solutions to a variety of social issues that disproportionately impact Indigenous populations as a result of past and contemporary colonialism in Canada including: homelessness, mental health, addictions, MMIWG, forced and coerced sterilization, sexualized violence prevention, and access to safe water and sanitation on all reserves across Canada.

Isabelle is a dedicated, passionate, and hard-working individual who is very much looking forward to joining the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association team as the Director of Sexualized Violence Prevention and Systems Mobilization.



INTRODUCING VANESSA PECKFORD, HUMAN RESOURCES/EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Vanessa Peckford

I am excited to be working with NSNWA as the Human Resources/Executive Assistant. I have worked in Non-profit and Corporate business for over 18 years, both on and off reserve. I have had the pleasure of working with companies in areas such as the Aerospace Industry, Confederacy Mainland Mi'Kmaq, green solutions environmental field and freight delivery. In my spare time outside of work, I love to spend time with family and friends, connect with nature, follow my lifelong passion for energy healing work and volunteer with Saint John Ambulance's Therapy Dog Program. My chocolate lab, Mercy, and I visit senior homes and hospitals to bring comfort to those in need. I was drawn to the NSNWA because of the amazing heartfelt work they do. The passion and support for the work they perform is evident in each of the team member at NSNWA. I am honored to be a part of the team and look forward to learning and growing with this amazing group of ladies.

