



# Self Government

Volume 1, Issue 2

May 2005

**MIAWPUKEK  
MI'KAMAWEY  
MAWI'OMI**

## Grade 12 Students Design Self Government Workshop

### Inside this issue:

Grade 12 Students	1
St. Anne's School Representative	1
Elders Consultation	2
Self Government Offices	2
Federal Government's Negotiation Team	3
Request/Thanks	3
Questions about Self	4

The Grade Twelve class consisting of Danielle Benoit, Dylan Benoit, Joshua Blanchard, Mark Joe, Rob Benoit, Michael Joe, Ansalewit Joe and Angelina McDonald are assisting the self government division by developing and designing a self government workshop for Grades 7-9. The Grade 12 class will consult with the youth to

determine what is self government? And how can it work for the Miawpukek community?

In return for the groups' hard work and dedication, the self-government division will sponsor a **MUCHMUSIC VIDEO DANCE** on May 7, 2005. The Grade 12 class will

be responsible for the dance's organization. All



**Grade 12 discussing Self Government Questions?**

proceeds will go towards the graduation ceremonies.

## St. Anne's School Representative



After consultation with Council, it was determined a representative of St. Anne's School should be a part of the Steering Committee. It was

agreed that a student from the Grade 7-8 class would be appropriate, as these students can be with the process from start to finish.

An election was held at school in which 15 students offered themselves. Kristien Hinks was the successful candidate.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)



Steering Committee Member

Kristien Hinks is a Grade 8 student at the Se't A'newey Kina'matino'kuom. She was born in GrandFalls Windsor and is being raised here by her mother, Barbara Hinks. She is an out going girl and shows great interest in sports, outdoor activities and getting involve with community events.

We like to take this opportunity to **Welcome** her as the newest team member of the Self Government Steering Committee. We are sure that you will find this process very interesting.



## Elder Consultation

As the initial consultation, it was determined that all elders which represents one of the main stakeholders within the Miawpukek community, will be the first round of community consultations. Elders have been identified and notices have been forwarded to them and interviews have begun. Elders are discussing

the governance component such as government structure, off reserve membership, Grand Council, and membership.

**It does not require many words to speak the truth.**

The first elder interviewed is Michael Joe Sr. Mr. Joe is the oldest member of this

community and shared some of his thoughts with the self government staff.



**Mr. Michael Joe Sr.**

## Self Government Offices



The self government offices are officially open. Please feel free to drop by to check it out. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the self

government process, please don't hesitate to call Judy or Siobhan at 709-882-3201, or email us at: [info@mfnselfgovernment.com](mailto:info@mfnselfgovernment.com).

## The Federal Government's Negotiation Team

Effective on January 18, 2005, there has been a change in the Federal negotiation team.

Marc Sanderson, the Chief Negotiator has taken a position as Director of the Residential Schools division within the Department of Indian Affairs and Richard Budgell is replacing him.

Mr. Budgell is an Inuit and originally from Labrador. He has held a variety of positions in the federal government. At Health Canada, he was one of the founders, and the national manager, of the Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities program. He received the Queen Elizabeth II Golden

Jubilee Medal for outstanding public service for his role with Aboriginal Head Start. He has worked in the past for Aboriginal organizations such as the Labrador Inuit Association, and continues to be member. Plus a BA degree from Memorial University of NFLD and a MA degree from Carleton University."

## Request

Our apologies go out to Eileen McDonald, for a misprint in the previous Newsletter. In the December 2004 Newsletter her name was listed incorrectly. If you have any more questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.



## Thanks

To Maurice Benoit for the installation of the door frames and the finishing of the stairs in the main entrance. Thank you very much for such a fine, professional, and prompt job. It was greatly appreciated!

**Thanks!!!**

## Why is Self Government being negotiated?

Aboriginal Self Government is not a new idea. The Miawpukek First Nation asserts that for thousands of years before Canada was formed, they enjoyed their own governments, economies and societies. Negotiating self government today is a way to provide

Miawpukek First Nation with the tools to regain this self-reliance, to protect their language and culture, and to chart their own futures. The Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador are committed to negotiating Aboriginal self government

with Conne River. Canada's negotiations of self government are based on the Inherent Right of Self Government Policy. Self Government will be passed only if the Miawpukek community agrees to it.

## SELF GOVERNMENT

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**Glenn John Arts and Craft Center** is the wonderful building in which our Self Government Offices are located.

### Determining Our Destiny

**Website:**  
[www.mfnselfgovernment.com](http://www.mfnselfgovernment.com)

### Glenn John Arts and Craft Center

Glen John Arts and Craft Center is named after a band member. Glen John was a self-taught artist whose art captured in many ways a central feature of life at Miawpukek, that being time on the country. Glen's pencil and charcoal sketches depicted many nature scenes and wildlife based on real life experiences and places in Ktaqamkuk (Newfoundland) Mi'kmaq territory.

As a self-taught artist, a kind and generous spirit, and an active outdoorsman, Glen served as a role model to many Miawpukek members, young and old alike. Glen's untimely and tragic passing into the spirit world saddened the Miawpukek Community and all who knew him. The Miawpukek Band felt it is befitting to honor Glen and all artists by naming the building after him.

### How will a future self government agreement provide better governance?

Under Self Government, the Miawpukek First Nation will acquire new governance arrangements and powers. They will be able to develop and approve the constitutions for their governments. Miawpukek First Nation will be able to make decisions in areas integral to their culture and society.

### What's in place to ensure that Miawpukek government will be democratic and accountable to those the govern?

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms will apply to the government established under the Final Self Government Agreement, concerning matters within their authority. Miawpukek government's system of accountability will be at least comparable to those of other governments in Canada.