

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) is an organization that represents the rights and interests of the Mi'kmaq peoples in Newfoundland. We work to promote the social, cultural, economic and educational well-being of the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq. We also sought federal recognition for members through negotiations with Canada since the 1970s.

Since 2011, the formation of Qalipu First Nation (QFN), the FNI has been overseen by the elected officials (ward councillors) of QFN. Recently, there was a significant court case called Benoit v. Federation of Newfoundland Indians Inc. In this case, Justice Marshall ordered that the FNI revert to 2009 by-laws. The decision reconstituted the 9 FNI Bands and its members. As a result of this decision and public influence, 8 bands and their leaders stood up as the FNI.

The 9 bands and their leaders are:

- Indian Head First Nation - Chief Byron Alexander (Interim President FNI)
- Exploits Indian Band (Sple'tk First Nation) - Chief Nellie Power (Interim Central Vice President)
- Flat Bay Indian Band - Chief Joanne Miles (Interim Western Vice President FNI)
- Benois Cove Indian Band (Elmastukwek) - Chief Terri Greene
- Gander Bay Indian Band - Chief Calvin Francis
- Glenwood Mi'kmaq First Nation. - Chief Marie Vaters
- Port au Port Indian Band - Chief Shana O'Quinn
- St. George's Indian Band - Chief Rhonda Sheppard
- Corner Brook Indian Band. - TBD

We are currently transferring administrative items and responding to legal matters.

When complete, our next step is to schedule the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM is an important gathering where designated community(voting) members come together to discuss and make decisions about the future of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians. We will keep you informed about the details of the AGM and ensure that you have the opportunity to participate and contribute to the decisionmaking process.

We understand that these developments are significant and have an impact on our community and the Mi'kmaq of Newfoundland. We value your support and involvement in these important discussions. If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for your attention and ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Byron Alexander
Interim President of The Federation of Newfoundland Indians