

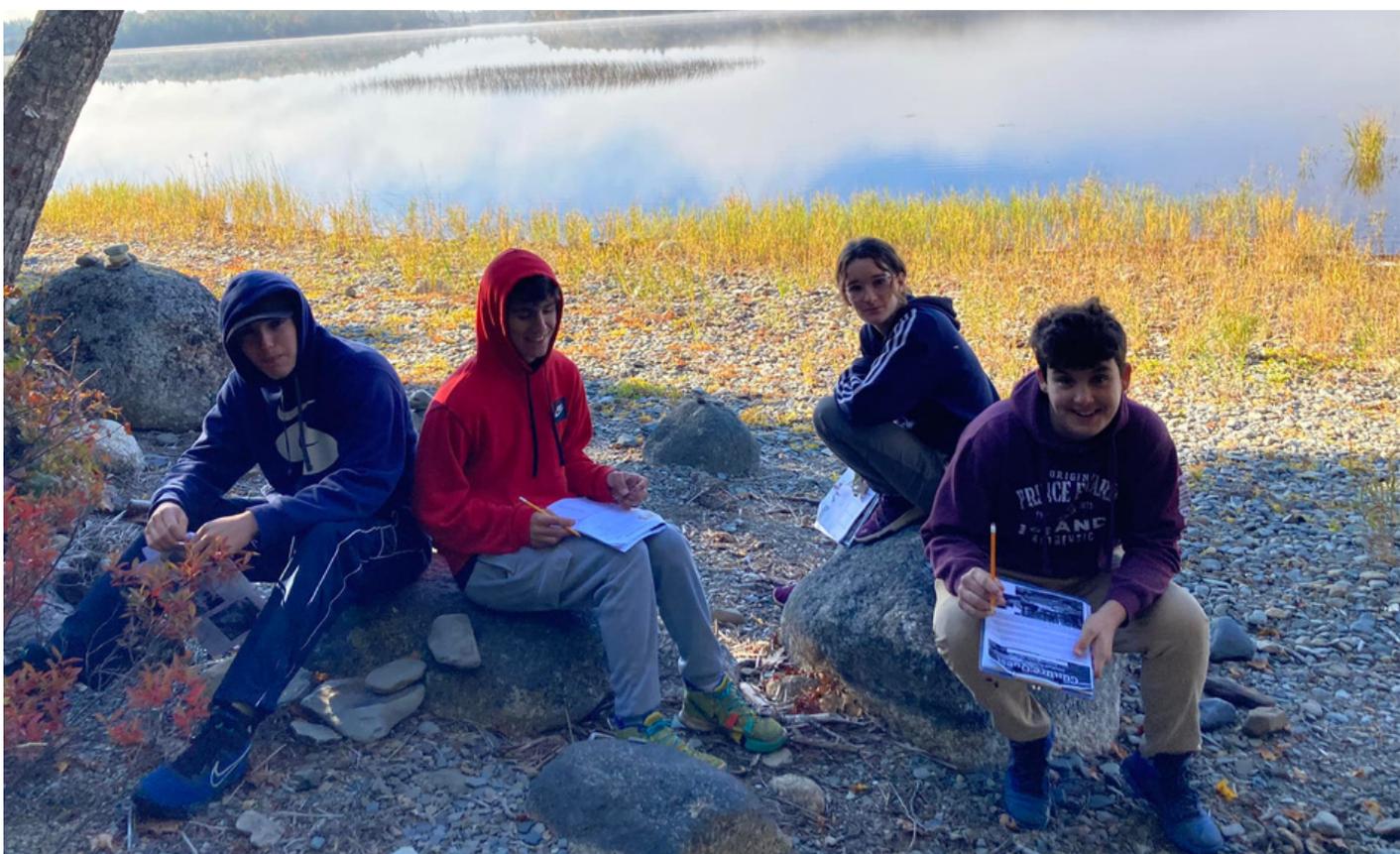


OCTOBER · WIKEWIKU'S · OCTOBRE · 2022



# REGIONAL UPDATE

Newsletter of the South Shore Regional Centre for Education



It's become a fall tradition for Mi'kmaw Studies 11 students from North Queens Community School to visit Keji. These students recently spent a successful day exploring the history and heritage of the land through hands-on learning.

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Have a story or photo you'd like included? Please contact us: [www.ssrce.ca](http://www.ssrce.ca)



## A Message from the Regional Executive Director

We are now well into the 2022-23 school year and throughout SSRCE, students and staff are settled into their important daily routines.

We remain committed to our mission of providing students with a learning environment that engages and inspires them to reach their full potential and I am pleased with the work I see supporting our goals, each and every time I visit a school.

With a lens of providing safe, supportive, inclusive, and equitable learning environments, our three main goals are literacy, well-being, and numeracy.

Part of the way we work toward these goals is through celebration and education of important events like Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honours the survivors of residential schools along with those who didn't return. October is Mi'kmaq History Month and we will continue to focus on building an understanding of our shared history this month and all year long.

I am pleased to share this report with you and hope you will enjoy seeing a peek inside our classrooms on page three and four. You can watch for more updates on what's happening at our schools through our website and on our social media pages.

Best wishes for a successful school year.

Sincerely,

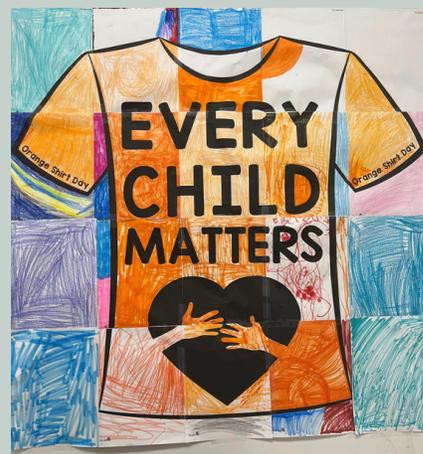
Paul Ash

Regional Executive Director of Education



Big Tancook Elementary School honours Orange Shirt Day (above).

Artwork at New Germany Elementary School (below).



# Spotlight on Schools



The Maritime Centre for African Dance visits Pentz Elementary School (pictured above).

Park View Education Centre's Outdoor Education Space was opened recently with a smudge and tobacco offering ceremony led by Shawn Feener, SSRCE Mi'kmaw Education Coordinator (pictured left).



Students at Hebbville Academy celebrate 35 years of Terry Fox fundraising and over \$70,000 raised! (pictured above).

Lori Davis, Student Support worker, visited Grade 2 students at Bridgewater Elementary and made talking sticks (pictured left).

# Spotlight on Schools



Liverpool Regional High School students create jester fish to be displayed in local stores to celebrate Liverpool International Theatre Festival (pictured above).

Thank you to the Lunenburg & District Fire Department for visiting Bluenose Academy during Fire Prevention Week (pictured left).

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## NQCS's Food Program Receives Significant Donation

Over the next three years, thousands of meals will be served to North Queens Community School students thanks to a generous donation from the J&W Murphy Foundation.



The J&W Murphy Foundation has donated \$75,000 (\$25,000 per year for the next three years) to support the NQCS healthy foods program.

The J&W Murphy Foundation was created 14 years ago by Janet and Bill Murphy, who were long-time residents of Liverpool, as a vehicle to give back to the community. The Foundation is now run by Lisa Murphy and her sister, Karen Spaulding. Lisa says the Foundation contributes to a number of charities, however the alarming rise of food insecurity, particularly among students and young people, has become a focus of their support.

"All children of all income levels are often hungry at school. It is a universal problem," says Lisa. "And there can be many reasons why kids are unable to access healthy food resources at home. One of the things we love about the NQCS program is that it is open to all, and doesn't depend entirely upon children or families having to "self-identify" as being in need before being fed. When all kids get the same meal at the same time, then the stigma of being a "needy kid" is gone."

Lisa hopes the Foundation's commitment to the school's healthy foods program will inspire other organizations and local governments to support local school food programs. "You can't spend a whole day learning if you haven't eaten good food," she says. "Such a relatively small financial commitment can reap huge rewards in learning outcomes."

## RootEd Highlighted as a Best Practice

Recently, the Auditor General of Nova Scotia released the Healthy Eating in Schools Audit. We were pleased to see our RootEd School Food Program highlighted as a best practice. Our not-for-profit organization focuses on providing students with access to healthy, local and delicious food.



As food costs are rising, more of our families are struggling with food security. During the 2021-2022 school year, over 30,000 healthy lunches were provided to students. This is a 20% increase from the 2020-2021 school year, and based on rising costs we expect to exceed last years numbers yet again.

Our lunch programs are funded through donations, fundraising and community volunteers. Support can be offered in many ways such as volunteering at your local school or donating to this initiative.

You can Donate using the link below and under 'Fund' at the top of the drop down menu, select "RootEd School Food Program - Everybody Eats."

For every \$20.00 donated, a hearty and healthy lunch is provided to 5 students. <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/18568>



# Storm Day Closure Process

SSRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools and school busses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

We encourage you to check multiple sources for school closure info. Here are the ways we share the updates:

- Check our website [www.ssrce.ca](http://www.ssrce.ca)
- Local media (radio and TV stations)
- Our [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#)
- Email & text alerts: messages are sent via email and text through our service provider to contact information we have on file. Opt-ins are required to receive text messages. **If you haven't already done so and would like to sign up to receive texts from SSRCE, text "Y" (from a number on file with a school) to 978338.** Please note, delivery times for text and email can vary based on service providers. It is not recommended to rely solely on receiving this notification. If you need to update your contact information, please contact your school directly.

For more information on the SSRCE storm day process, visit our website at <https://ssrce.ca/storm-day-closure-process>





## Achievement depends on attendance

Absences add up quick. Missing just two days a month is the same as missing 15% of the school year. And missing this valuable in-person instructional time has a direct impact on the overall achievement and well-being of our students.

If your child is worried about their grades, please know they are not alone. Reach out to your school and someone will be happy to help get your child back on track and help improve their attendance.

# REGISTER TODAY!

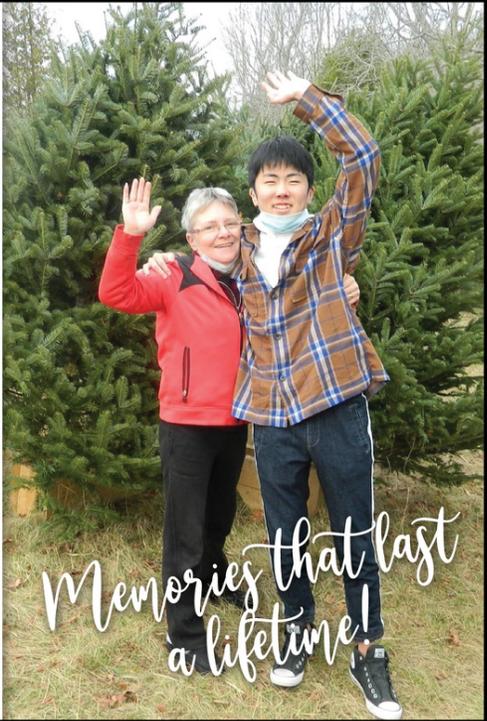
**SchoolCash Online**

Pay for school items & fees online



# BECOME A HOST FAMILY

## OPEN YOUR HOME AND HEART TO AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT



**IMPORTANT UPDATE: Compensation Increase!**

<p><b>\$725/mth</b> <b>PER STUDENT</b> <i>(Tax Free)</i></p>	<p><b>\$825/mth</b> <i>if you can accommodate a vegetarian or lactose free diet</i></p>	<p><b>\$925/mth</b> <i>if you can accommodate a vegan or celiac diet</i></p>
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RECEIVE \$100 FOR EVERY SUCCESSFUL REFERRAL OF NEW HOST FAMILY

*Just give us their name, we will reach out to them*



**South Shore**  
Regional Centre for Education

LEARN MORE: [nsisp.ca/homestay](http://nsisp.ca/homestay)  
EMAIL Steven McGill: [mcgills@ssrce.ca](mailto:mcgills@ssrce.ca) for info or application

## New Host Families Required for International Students (Arriving February 2023)

Are you interested in an experience of a lifetime? Learning a new language? Learning about another culture? Sharing your love of the South Shore with someone new to the area?

If you are, we have a group of international students (Grades 7-12) arriving on the South Shore in February 2023, and we are in need of host families! These students will be here for a minimum of 4 weeks to a maximum of 5 months.

Host families receive a minimum of \$725/month per student, and you can host up to three students if you have suitable rooms and space to do so.

If you're interested in trying out hosting, but aren't sure about making a long-term commitment, please let us know. For example, there are times when we also need a few families to take students while another family is travelling just for a day or two.

You can also receive compensation for successful referrals. If you know someone who may be interested in hosting, please pass along this information. For every successful referral you make, you will receive \$100.

The Nova Scotia International Student Program team is committed to making your experience great!

For more info or to apply visit [www.ssrce.ca/host](http://www.ssrce.ca/host)



# MI'KMAQ

WIKEWIKU'S HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER 2022

## Mikmaw Beadwork & the Art of Beading

Perfected through process and vision, Mi'kmaw beadwork represents life and creation. Generations of hands, eyes, backs, and fingers have worked for balance in intricate designs and colour palettes. From *wampum* and bone beads to suspenders and peaked caps to contemporary medallions, beauty emerges from skill and love. Ceremonies have a special place to focus the intentions of artists' hearts and minds. In kitchens and *wikuoml* masters have shared their practice with those who were dedicated. In turn, they were asked to share with the next generation.

Agnes 'Aggie Baby' Gould told new beaders "share, please share." We carry that teaching in our hearts as we celebrate this year's poster.



Mary Josephine (MacCleod) Morris, Eskasoni First Nation, 1930



Mali An (Morris) Sylliboy, Eskasoni First Nation, 1930

### MOTIFS AND DESIGNS

Beaded designs reflect the patterns in the world around us. Across Mi'kmaw kik expressions mirror colours, plants, places, and social life of our communities. Motifs like the double-curve make worldviews visible and shared. Small quahog shell beads woven into patterns (*wampum*) have recorded important decisions. Beading styles and forms signify age and life stage, gender, and social and political roles as well as community.

"I bead with my mood."  
— Erica Busby



### TECHNIQUES

Integrating traditional techniques with contemporary contexts has given rise to innovative shapes and forms that are uniquely Mi'kmaw. Shifting from moose hair threading to wax thread tacking, from heavily beaded suspenders to elaborate medallions, we continue to ask the question: what techniques will carry our creations into the future?

"That's our people for you: figuring it out."  
— Valerie Meader



kin'skwej



Orange shirts honour Phyllis Webstad from the Stswecem'c Xgat'lem First Nation and all residential school survivors across Canada.



Paulina Meader uses her beading skills to honour the stories of Phyllis and her grandmother Margaret (Margie) Pero, #60.

Red dresses represent the national movement to heighten response for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirited people (MMIWG2S).



Virginia Sue Picbou disappeared in Maine in 1993. Her sister Agnes 'Aggie Baby' Gould, a master beader, was one of the first to create a beaded red dress.

Beaded poppies honour and celebrate indigenous veterans and raise awareness their experiences.



Killa Alencio has been dedicated to sharing her teachings and beading across Mi'kmaw kik for many years.

### GLOBAL ENCOUNTERS

European contact increased the types and amounts of beads available in Mi'kmaw kik. Indigenous demand for raw beads in turn produced new forms of market-ready objects such as purses or small bags. Over decades and then centuries, international markets expanded to Asia and beyond, creating worldwide prominence for Mi'kmaw beadwork.

"[Beads and quills were] all their ornament in every kind of work..."  
— Nicholas Denys (French, A.D. 1672)



### BEADING IS HEALING

For many beaders, the hands and hearts of our ancestors place each stitch and lay each bead. Designs are sketched. Colours are chosen. Prayers and blessings are given as needles pierce and move. We acknowledge our gifts by letting go.

"It's all about mind, body and soul."  
— Nik Phillips



kin'skwej

### BEADS!

Beads have been essential to our culture for thousands of years. Beaders often have very particular tastes and needs, creating an enormous variety of styles and materials. Today, the contemporary beading market is global and significant. Specialized historians track minute changes in forms and styles to create timelines for broader cultural and human histories.

Many beaders honour the teaching that "nothing in this world is perfect" by adding an odd or unexpected bead to their creations. These *kepmek waio'psk* (spirit beads) are often unnoticeable such as using an orange bead rather than a red one. Can you find the *kepmek waio'psk* in the poster?

"Nothing in this world is perfect."  
— Mariah Battiste



MI'KMAQ HISTORY MONTH 2022

NOVA SCOTIA

Indigenous Services Canada

Services aux Autochtones Canada

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaw

Native Council of Nova Scotia

Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw

