



(Above) Maureen Googo interviews Dan Christmas.

Membertou says "YES" to Family Homes Law

The Membertou Family Homes law is now in effect after a majority vote was achieved. Out of the 328 of electors who voted, 322 voted in favour of ratifying the law. Chief Terry Paul calls it a historic moment for the community. "This law is the first one that was created by us, for us," said Paul.

If Membertou had not voted in favour of its own law, matrimonial property issues would be governed by the Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act. Federal legislation created without any input from Membertou. The community itself is now involved in the design, discussion, vote, and implementation of the law.

The voting process began in March, with electronic-voting, and continued for weeks, ending on April 30th, 2016. In-person voting was held on April 29 and 30. Membertou became the first Mi'kmaw community to use an electronic option in a ratification vote and the second in Canada.

The Membertou Family Homes Law was a three-year community engagement process that was designed to ensure the best interests of the child and to protect Membertou lands and housing if there is a separation in a spousal relationship (marriage, common law, domestic partnership).



(Above) Take it away, Sons of Membertou and Stoney Bear Singers!

Wikipaltimk Spring Gathering

The 5th annual Wikipaltimk Spring Gathering had an early start on May 14, with a 5:00 a.m. Sunrise Ceremony. The ceremony was hosted by Jeff Ward and Elder Jane Meader.

From there, the Youth Chief and Council held a scrumptious pancake breakfast at the Wally Bernard Memorial Seniors Centre. The breakfast was a fundraiser for the 2016 Nova Scotia Summer Games Youth Social.

Following the breakfast, Elder Danny Paul guided a medicine walk through the Membertou Heritage Park. He educated everyone on traditional Mi'kmaw plants and medicines.

The Grand Entry then brought attendees over to the Heritage Park, where 20 dancers of all ages moved to the rhythms of the drums. The head dancers were 16-year-old Montana Marshall and 11-year-old Malakai Denny. Some of the dancers were as young as six-years-old, such as Skyla Marshall.

Near the end of the day, Jeff Ward held a youth scavenger hunt and awarded prizes. It was an enjoyable finish to the day.

The Spring Gathering began five (5) years ago when elder Jane E Meader wanted to begin reviving old traditions such as the Spring Gathering ceremony. The Governance Committee jumped on the opportunity, and loved the idea of creating positive memories in the minds of Membertou's youth.

The 5th Annual Spring Gathering had a great turnout of around 100 people that came to enjoy a day of learning and fun.

A special thank goes out to Cheryl Knockwood, Membertou Governance Coordinator, for organizing the annual event, and to all members of the Governance Committee for their commitment in making the spring gathering a blossoming success!



(Above) Edna Kabatay

Upcoming Events

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June 23, 2015

Governance Committee

Membertou Entrepreneur Centre

Boardroom

10:00 – 1:00 p.m.

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July 28, 2015

Governance Committee

Membertou Entrepreneur Centre

Boardroom

10:00 – 1:00 p.m.

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 Please note above dates are subject to change, confirm details with Governance Coordinator prior to event.

**“Kisitutesnu piley kelu'lk nstuita'suaqn
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 CHERYL KNOCKWOOD

GOVERNANCE COORDINATOR

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