# Aboriginal Affairs

**ANNUAL REPORT** 

2021-2022



## **Aboriginal Affairs**

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Province of New Brunswick PO 6000, Fredericton NB E3B 5H1 CANADA gnb.ca

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## **Transmittal letters**

## FROM THE MINISTER TO THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

The Honourable Brenda Murphy Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick

May it please your Honour:

It is my privilege to submit the annual report of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Honourable Arlene Dunn

Minister

## FROM THE DEPUTY MINISTER TO THE MINISTER

Honourable Arlene Dunn Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Madam:

I am pleased to be able to present the annual report describing the operations of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for the fiscal year April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Cade Libby

**Deputy Minister** 

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# Minister's message

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs is responsible for the coordination of all the province's initiatives with First Nations and I am proud of what it accomplished through 2021-2022.

This year, a report that highlights some of the work underway across government that contributes to the implementation of Calls to Action identified in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 2015 report was released.

GNB, with the support of many of its departments, is committed to continuing to work on, and implement the 31 Calls to Action within its purview.

The pandemic created many challenges. Notwithstanding those challenges, the department was there to provide COVID-19 response information, amongst other things, for First Nations leadership as we looked toward recovery in New Brunswick.

In addition to our regular commitments, we provided core capacity funding to enable First Nation communities and Indigenous organizations to participate meaningfully in consultations and negotiations.

None of what was achieved, including the examples above, would have been possible without the dedicated staff in the department. This talented team of hard-working professionals deserves much thanks for what it does daily, and I am grateful for each of them for their continued devotedness.

Honourable Arlene Dunn

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

# Deputy Minister's message

This report outlines the numerous accomplishments of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, which have been made possible due to the dedication and commitment of its staff.

With its new mandate to oversee a whole-of-government approach to Indigenous relations and to coordinate the province's initiatives with First Nations, 2021-2022 provided the department with many opportunities to fulfill that mandate. Respecting Aboriginal and treaty rights, providing guidance to other departments on engagement, consultation, and collaboration and advancing reconciliation remains at the heart of what this department does. The ultimate goal is to achieve nation-to-nation dialogue about a common path forward that focuses on equitable principles with a shared vision of harmonious relations supported by a new partnership.

In keeping with the department's mandate and goals, an interim rights implementation agreement was negotiated and signed with the Peskotomuhkati Nation for a special moose harvest in the fall. The hunt provides a source of food for the Peskotomuhkati and enables the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development, which collaborated on the agreement, to collect valuable data to aid conservation efforts.

The relationship between the province and First Nations is of the utmost importance. The department took proactive steps to coordinate efforts to ensure all initiatives with First Nations achieve their intended results, thus strengthening positive collaborations with the communities as part of the province's commitment to that relationship. While every department continues to value the work that it does with First Nations, a missing link was identified and needed to be addressed to ensure that all of government was aligned moving forward. DAA was identified as the hub for all initiatives and a new branch was established to be the central point from which to coordinate initiatives related to First Nations.

The department will continue to build upon its achievements and successes in the coming years and strengthen its relationship with First Nations. There are many reasons for the department to be proud of its accomplishments, many of which you will read about in this report.

Cade Libby

**Deputy Minister** 

## **Government Priorities**

### Delivering for New Brunswickers

#### ONE TEAM ONE GNB

One Team One GNB is our vision as an organization and a • collaborative approach to how we operate. It is our path forward, and it represents a civil service that is working collectively across departments, professions, and sectors. COVID RESPONSE Together, we are learning, growing, and adapting, and discovering new and innovative ways of doing business. It is enabling us to achieve the outcomes needed for New Brunswickers, and we are working more efficiently and effectively than ever before.

As One Team One GNB, we are improving the way government departments:

- communicate with one another,
- work side-by-side on important projects, and
- drive focus and accountability.

#### STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS **MANAGEMENT**

The Government of New Brunswick (GNB) uses a Formal Management system built on leading business practices to develop, communicate and review strategy. This process provides the Public Service with a proven methodology to execute strategy, increase accountability • and continuously drive improvement.

The development of the strategy, using the Formal Management system, starts with our government's roadmap for the future of New Brunswick that focuses on key priorities and the importance of public accountability.

#### **GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES**

Our vision for 2021-2022 is a vibrant and sustainable New Brunswick. To make progress towards this vision, we must focus on our government's priorities.

- Energize private sector
- Vibrant and sustainable communities
- Affordable, responsive and high-performing government

- Dependable public health care
- World-class education, and
- **Environment**

As part of GNB's priorities this past year, responding to the COVID-19 pandemic was at the forefront. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) supported GNB in responding to the pandemic by partnering with other departments to ensure that the health and well-being of First Nations were properly considered in all components of GNB's COVID responses while First Nations leadership implemented a variety of measures to protect their communities and collaborated closely with government.

Several activities were undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- There were opportunities for provincial and federal officials to connect with Chiefs, Health Directors and Emergency Measures Leads to respond to questions or to provide updates on programs, services or funding.
- The department worked with Public Health to communicate information and collaborate with Chiefs and Health Directors for vaccination and booster roll outs in Indigenous communities.
- The department participated in meetings with Band Administrators and Indigenous Services Canada which were an opportunity for the provincial and federal governments to share information and program updates on matters such as financial assistance, education and employment.
- During the recovery and rebuild of the province's economy, the department ensured communities were informed of available assistance and steps needed to reopen offices and businesses.

# **Highlights**

During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Aboriginal Affairs focused on these government priorities through:

- Communicating significant developments of GNB's COVID-19 responses with First Nations leadership by sharing
  information; assisting in planning, preparedness and recovery activities; and exploring solutions where gaps
  were identified.
- Providing core capacity funding to enable First Nation communities and Indigenous organizations to participate meaningfully in consultations and negotiations.
- Releasing a report which highlights the work that is underway or completed across government that contributes to the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- Implementing a whole of GNB approach to the relationship with First Nations and the organizations that represent them to ensure First Nations rights are respected, First Nations benefit from legislated initiatives and agreements with First Nations achieve their overall purpose of benefiting all community members of First Nations.

## **Performance Outcomes**

#### Outcome #1

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION CALLS TO ACTION

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission identified 94 Calls to Action in its final report. Thirty-one of those Calls to Action fall under the jurisdiction of the provincial government with some overlap with other government organizations – federal, municipal, territorial and Indigenous.

#### **Importance of Priority**

GNB has pledged its support for the implementation of the Calls to Action, and to repair and rebuild its relationship with Indigenous peoples.

#### **Overall Performance**

The department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) released a report which highlights some of the work that is underway or completed across government that contributes to the implementation of the Calls to Action.

#### **Description of Measure**

In collaboration with other departments, DAA continues to identify, lead and support initiatives that help GNB advance the Calls to Action and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in the province.

## What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

To assist in identifying opportunities for future action, it is important to understand what work is underway or completed. The report published by DAA highlights initiatives that contribute to the implementation of the Calls to Action for which GNB is responsible, as well as support that GNB has provided toward Calls to Action for which the province is not the lead. Through collaboration with Indigenous communities and organizations, GNB will build on this foundation and continue along the path toward reconciliation.

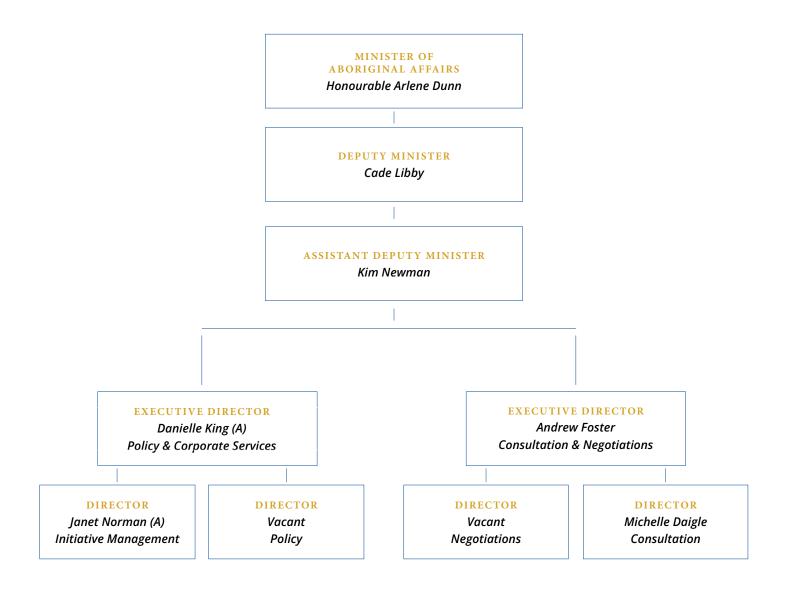
## Some of the work underway or completed by GNB that is responsive to the Calls to Action includes:

- Contributing to efforts to reduce the number of Indigenous children in care, keeping families together, and ensuring that children are placed in culturally appropriate environments by improving relations with partners, implementing federal child welfare legislation, introducing a kinship regulation under the Family Services Act, and improving training and awareness.
- Incorporating topics such as Indian Residential Schools, treaties, historical legislation, language, and culture into the K-12 curriculum. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is developing and providing professional development on Indigenous history, historical and contemporary contributions, intercultural competency and treaties to all early childhood, school and district personnel.
- Supported research on Indian Residential Schools, and provided this information to the National Anglican archives, who then provided it to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Working to eliminate the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in custody and to support Indigenous-specific victim programs by taking Indigenous heritage and culture into consideration throughout the justice system by supporting the Elsipogtog Healing to Wellness Court, supporting restorative justice, considering alternative measures to hold a person accountable for an offence, and making cultural programs and resources accessible to Indigenous offenders.

# Overview of departmental operations

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs oversees a whole-of-government approach to Indigenous relations and is responsible for the coordination of all of the province's initiatives with First Nations. The department is the main point of contact and represents the interests of the province in multilateral initiatives and negotiations. The department leads the consultation process with Aboriginal Nations and provides research, analysis and policy advice to government on matters involving Indigenous peoples.

#### HIGH-LEVEL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# Division overview and highlights

The department established a new organizational structure to support the new mandate to serve as the hub for all GNB initiatives with First Nations, including a new centralized approach for administering the GNB Duty to Consult policy. The department is divided into two main divisions 1) Policy and Corporate Services; and 2) Consultation and Negotiations. With the restructuring, the divisions were renamed, and new branches were also established.

## POLICY AND CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

#### Overview

The Policy and Corporate Services Division consists of the **Initiative Management Branch** and the Policy **Branch**.

The Initiative Management Branch supports the department as it fulfills its mandate to be the hub for all initiatives across government that involve Indigenous peoples. The branch applies a "whole-of-government" approach by exploring all initiatives, programs and services, overcoming silos and looking for opportunities, gaps and overlap between initiatives. The branch supports departments and builds relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations to ensure that government is delivering programs and services that are responsive to the needs and priorities of Indigenous peoples and have the greatest positive impact.

The branch's responsibilities include:

- Undertake research and policy development in support of GNB initiatives and the department's operational objectives.
- Provide assistance to government departments and agencies on matters that involve Indigenous peoples.
- Identify opportunities to improve economic prosperity for Indigenous peoples and communities, which will increase and strengthen the economy.
   Support community development projects.
   Represent the department on interdepartmental and intergovernmental committees related to health, social and justice matters (e.g., Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Roundtable on Crime and Public Safety, disabilities, mental health and addictions).

#### **Highlights**

Worked with other departments to track GNB's progress in implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action that fall within provincial jurisdiction.

Implemented the new Initiatives Management process to better understand GNB 350 initiatives with First Nation communities and seek opportunities to better serve Indigenous organizations and communities.

Provided \$10,000 in funding towards the Indigenous art education program pARTnerships for the 2021-2022 school year and to help facilitate professional development and appreciation activities in three First Nations schools in the province.

Provided \$105,000 to the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI), which aims to strengthen entrepreneurship and economic development opportunities for First Nations. JEDI provides programs and services to support Indigenous entrepreneurship, economic development, workforce development, and partnership with the public and private sectors.

The **Policy Branch** provides a range of key supports and direct services to the department. The branch works in partnership with other branches of the department to assist in the success of the organization's finances, information management, research and planning. It is also the lead for matters relating to cultural awareness and training.

The branch's responsibilities include:

- Manage the department's executive correspondence process.
- Manage government's responses to requests received through the Addition to Reserve process.
- Provide advice and recommendations on Memorandums to Executive Council that may have an impact on Indigenous peoples.

- Coordinate an integrated strategic planning cycle, including accountability reporting and financial administration.
- Coordinate responses to requests under the Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
- Coordinate and provide support for federal/ provincial/territorial relations in relevant forums.
- Administer the DAA Small Grants Programs which supports small-scale, non-profit projects/initiatives of a social, cultural and educational nature such as powwows and National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations.

#### **Highlights**

Advanced cultural awareness and understanding by coordinating the delivery of a Blanket Exercise for Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Provided educational opportunities for public servants through events and activities such as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, traditional basket making, and participation in training sessions offered by Indigenous organizations.

Coordinated the review of 47 Memorandums to Executive Council from other departments that had the potential to impact Indigenous peoples in New Brunswick.

Provided \$38,250 to 18 recipients through the department's grants program to support both virtual and in-person cultural awareness activities, educational initiatives, and social events such as powwows, National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations, Resilience Day, and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Provided capacity funding to Under One Sky (Monoqonuwicik-Neoteetjg Mosigisg Inc.) which is a service provider for off-reserve Indigenous peoples. Under One Sky is committed to empowering a healthy and proud Indigenous community in New Brunswick and provides over 13 culturally informed programs and services to the community. These services include health and family support, education, cultural teachings, and community events.

## CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATIONS DIVISION

#### Overview

The division consists of the **Consultation Branch** and the **Negotiations Branch**.

The **Consultation Branch** is now charged with taking a more active role in the Duty to Consult process and leads a whole-of-government approach to consultations to ensure the process respects Aboriginal rights, is properly documented and fulfills government's Duty to Consult obligation. This is a coordinated approach which is led by the Consultation Branch with technical support from departments. The branch also conducts research and develops ethnohistoric reports for the province.

The branch's responsibilities include:

- Leading consultations with First Nations as mandated by government.
- Ensuring that the government's Duty to Consult process is respected and consistently applied.
- Provide effective coordination and strategic advice regarding consultation to departments and agencies.
- Coordinate Duty to Consult assessments, consultation processes and procedures.
- Make recommendations on accommodation options for GNB.
- Research and develop ethnohistoric reports for the province.
- Generate greater awareness regarding government's Duty to Consult obligations.

#### **Highlights**

Onboarded seven new consultation team members and advanced the integration of staff within key government departments to serve as their main point of contact on matters related to First Nations consultation and initiatives.

Presented the new mandate and Duty to Consult Process to leadership, management, and program staff in several GNB Departments.

Provided information and advice to several external project proponents regarding government's Duty to Consult obligation, explained their role in the process

and highlighted the benefits of early engagement with First Nations.

Established a GNB Duty to Consult Process and applied it to 23 government initiatives and resource development files. As part of the process, the branch conducted assessments and provided advice on the degree of infringement on Aboriginal and treaty rights for each Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) project as well as for proposals that do not require EIA review, government initiatives and strategies.

Provided recommendations regarding the Duty to Consult on 16 projects through its participation on the Technical Review Committee under the EIA process.

Provided capacity funding for First Nations Resource Development Consultation Coordinators for each community of the Mi'gmaq, Wolastoqey and Peskotomuhkati Nations in the amount of \$800,000.

The **Negotiations Branch** strives to resolve rights related issues and provides a means to operational clarity as long-term negotiations continue on land, resources and governance related matters. The overarching goals are to enhance clarity on Aboriginal and treaty rights through agreements and policies by continuing discussions with Canada and First Nations, and to foster a positive and productive partnership.

The branch's responsibilities include:

- Participating as the provincial lead for tripartite negotiations with the Nations and federal government.
- Providing guidance, assistance, and advice to GNB departments at a number of bilateral or tripartite negotiations tables.

#### Highlights

Provided capacity funding in the amount of \$600,000 to the Mi'gmaq, Wolastoqey and Peskotomuhkati Nations for bilateral and tripartite negotiations.

Facilitated the renewal of a Moose and Deer Harvesting Agreement between the Peskotomuhkati Nation and the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development (renewed annually since its inception in 2017).

Through on-going trilateral rights-based negotiations, secured commitments to establish a new bilateral table focused on justice system reform (NB – all Nations) and entered into bilateral discussions with the Nations on archaeology.

The negotiations are in large part confidential, but this branch was actively involved in three negotiation tables with 10 First Nation communities.

## **Financial information**

This financial overview was prepared based on the best available information at the time of publication and therefore may not correspond exactly with the figures that will be subsequently published in GNB's Public Accounts.

#### **ORDINARY BUDGET**

The Ordinary Budget expenditures cover the day-to-day operations of the department.

Expenditure by program and primary for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022

#### **ORDINARY EXPENDITURES**

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS	2022 ACTUAL (THOUSANDS)
Personal Services	\$2,559.9
Other Services	3,274.2
Material and Supplies	10.0
Property and Equipment	60.1
Contributions, Grants and Subsidies	2,350.4
2021-22 Total	8,254.6

# **Summary of staffing activity**

Pursuant to section 4 of the Civil Service Act, the Secretary to Treasury Board delegates staffing to each Deputy Head for his or her respective department(s). Please find below a summary of the staffing activity for 2021-2022 for Aboriginal Affairs.

NUMBER OF PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES AS OF DEC. 31 OF EACH YEAR			
EMPLOYEE TYPE 2021 2020			
Permanent	22	23	
Temporary	6	1	
TOTAL	28	24	

The department advertised nine competitions, including three open (public) competitions and five closed (internal) competitions.

Pursuant to sections 15 and 16 of the Civil Service Act, the department made the following appointments using processes to establish merit other than the competitive process:

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE	NUMBER
Specialized Professional, Scientific or Technical	<ul> <li>An appointment may be made without competition when a position requires:</li> <li>a high degree of expertise and training</li> <li>a high degree of technical skill</li> <li>recognized experts in their field</li> </ul>	15(1)	0
Equal Employment Opportunity Program	Provides Aboriginals, persons with disabilities and members of a visible minority group with equal access to employment, training and advancement opportunities.	16(1)(a)	0
Department Talent Management Program	Permanent employees identified in corporate and departmental talent pools, who meet the four-point criteria for assessing talent, namely performance, readiness, willingness and criticalness.	16(1)(b)	2
Lateral transfer	The GNB transfer process facilitates the transfer of employees from within Part 1, 2 (school districts) and 3 (hospital authorities) of the Public Service.	16(1) or 16(1)(c)	3
Regular appointment of casual/temporary	An individual hired on a casual or temporary basis under section 17 may be appointed without competition to a regular properly classified position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(i)	0
Regular appointment of students/ apprentices	Summer students, university or community college co-op students or apprentices may be appointed without competition to an entry level position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(ii)	0

Pursuant to section 33 of the Civil Service Act, no complaints alleging favouritism were made to the Deputy Head of the department and no complaints were submitted to the Ombud.

# Summary of legislation and legislative activity

The department did not have any legislative activity.

# Summary of Official Languages activities

#### INTRODUCTION

In 2021-2022, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs continued to fulfill its obligation under the *Official Languages Act* and was committed to actively offering and providing quality services in both Official Languages. Below are associated activities that were carried out on an ongoing basis during the year.

#### FOCUS 1

Ensure access to service of equal quality in English and French throughout the province.

Activities that took place to meet the objective of Language of Service and ensure employees have a good understand of the Language of Service Policy:

- Required employees to complete the Language of Service module through the GNB Knowledge Center.
   Managers are to ensure the modules are completed and verified annually during the performance review period.
- Active offer reminder is sent yearly to all staff.
   Additionally, staff are provided with tools and coaching is offered by Official Languages
   Coordinator to assist employees in providing the appropriate level of service.
- Ongoing discussions between human resources consultants and managers to ensure the department best meets the linguistic profile requirements. Linguistic profiles are all completed and reviewed on an as-needed basis.

#### FOCUS 2

An environment and climate that encourages, for all employees, the use of the Official Language of their choice in their workplace:

Activities that took place to meet the objective of Language of Work and ensure employees have a good understanding of the Language of Work Policy.

- Required employees to complete the Language of Work module through the GNB Knowledge Center.
   Managers are to ensure the modules are completed and verified annually during the performance review period.
- New employees were provided an opportunity to state their preferred language of work for communication purposes through the employment acceptance form. A Language of Work Quick Reference Guide is offered to new employees through the employee orientation package.
- Ensured employees received their performance review in the language of their choice. Managers also review the Language of Work and Language of Service policies with their employee to ensure they understand their right to work in their language of choice, as well as their obligation to provide an active offer of service in both Official Languages.
- Provided second-language training to employees who met the requirement of the department's Second-Language Training Policy. No employee received second language-training in 2021-2022.

#### FOCUS 3

New and revised provincial government programs and policies will take into account the realities of the two Official Linguistic communities.

- Through the department's onboarding program, new employees are required to familiarize themselves with the Official Languages Act by completing mandatory modules through the GNB Knowledge Center.
- Employees are required to review the Official Languages Act during the annual performance management process.

#### FOCUS 4

Ensure Public Service employees have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Official Languages Act, relevant policies, regulations, and the province's obligations with respect to Official Languages:

## Activities that took place to meet the objective of knowledge of the Official Languages Act:

- Ensured orientation was provided to all new employees, which included information about the Official Languages Act and the policies and regulations governing their interaction with respect to Official Languages. They are asked to sign and send confirmation to Human Resources upon completion.
- Current employees are required to read the Official Languages policies as part of their annual performance review.
- Continue to remind all employees of their responsibility to provide an active offer of service in both Official Languages.
- The department's Official Languages coordinator attended quarterly meeting established through Treasury Board to remain knowledgeable and proactive on all activities regarding Official Languages.

#### CONCLUSION

The department did not have any Official Languages complaints for fiscal 2021-2022.

# Smmary of recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General

The department did not have any recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General in the current reporting year and the previous four years.

## Report on the Public Interest Disclosure Act

As provided under section 18(1) of the Public Interest Disclosure Act, the chief executive shall prepare a report of any disclosures of wrongdoing that have been made to a supervisor or designated officer of the portion of the public service for which the chief executive officer is responsible. Aboriginal Affairs did not receive any disclosure(s) of wrongdoings in the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

# **Appendix A**

#### Indigenous peoples in New Brunswick / Aboriginal peoples in New Brunswick

The term 'Indigenous peoples' or 'Aboriginal peoples' is a collective name for the original peoples of North America and their descendants.

The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal peoples: Indians (more commonly referred to as First Nations), Inuit and Métis. These are three distinct peoples with unique histories, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

In New Brunswick, there are nine Mi'gmaq communities and six Wolastoqey (Maliseet) communities, totalling 15 First Nation communities with 32 reserve locations across the province. Each community is governed by an elected Chief and Council. The type of system used by a community in the selection of its Chief and Councillors can be that provided for under the *Indian Act*, the *First Nations Elections Act* or the provisions of a self-governing agreement, or a custom system. Most communities in New Brunswick have now moved to the election system under the First Nations Election Act, which is a four-year term, apart from three communities that still use the system under the Indian Act, which is a two-year term, and one community that has a custom system, which is a five-year term.

The Peskotomuhkati (Passamaquoddy) Nation is still considering Band status options. In 2017, a claim by the Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik located in southwest New Brunswick was received by the federal government who has a mandate to negotiate with the group. Recognition of rights and/or status is

under the jurisdiction of the federal government. The province initially participated as an observer in these negotiations between the federal government and the Peskotomuhkati. In 2018, the province entered into a Comprehensive Land Claims Negotiations process with Canada and the Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik. A tripartite Framework Agreement between the Peskotomuhkati, New Brunswick, and Canada was signed in 2019.

According to the federal Indian Registry System, as of December 31, 2021, 16,985<sup>1</sup> First Nation peoples lived in New Brunswick, both on and off-reserve (See Table 2). However, based on the 2016 census, it is estimated that there are 29,380<sup>2</sup> Aboriginal people (Aboriginal identity) living in New Brunswick.

New Brunswick's total population in 2021 was 789,225³, meaning that First Nations accounted for two per cent. Even though this may seem a small percentage, based on Statistics Canada's 2011 and 2016 census, the First Nations population had a much higher population growth of 12 per cent compared to the -0.5 per cent for New Brunswick overall (See Table 3 and Table 4 below). The 2016 census also indicated that the Aboriginal population was much younger than the rest of the population, in both New Brunswick and Canada. The median age of the First Nation population in New Brunswick was 32 compared to 45 for the population as a whole⁴.

#### TABLE 1

NEW BRUNSWICK AND FIRST NATIONS POPULATION			
NEW YEAR BRUNSWICK POPULATION POPULATION			
2021	789,225	16,985	

<sup>1</sup> Source: INAC's Indian Registry System as of Dec. 31, 2021

<sup>2</sup> **Source:** Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, Population estimates for New Brunswick, 2021

<sup>4</sup> **Source:** Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2016.

<sup>5</sup> **Source:** Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0009-01Population estimates, quarterly

#### CHART 1

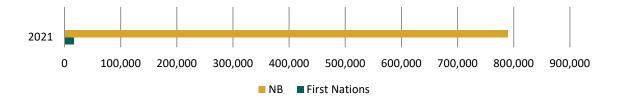


TABLE 26

	TOTAL	ON-RESERVE	OFF-RESERVE
New Brunswick	16,985	9,968	7,017
Buctouche Micmac (Tijpogtotjg)	124	80	44
Natoaganeg (Eel Ground)	1,083	594	489
Eel River Bar First Nation (Ugpi'ganjig)	815	360	455
Elsipogtog First Nation (Big Cove)	3,519	2,752	767
Esgenoôpetitj First Nation (Burnt Church)	1,940	1,379	561
Fort Folly (Amlamgog)	139	36	103
Indian Island (L'nui Menkiuk)	212	112	100
Kingsclear (Bilijk)	1,064	738	326
Madawaska Maliseet First Nation (Mataqaskiye)	380	163	217
Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation (Red Bank)	707	465	242
Oromocto First Nation (Welamukotuk)	823	342	481
Pabineau (Oinpegitjoig)	350	104	246
Saint Mary's (Sitansisk)	2,078	950	1,128
Tobique (Neqotkuk)	2,585	1,596	965
Woodstock (Wotstak)	1,166	300	842

NOTE: On-reserve numbers for each First Nation should not be taken to represent the true population for the following reasons:

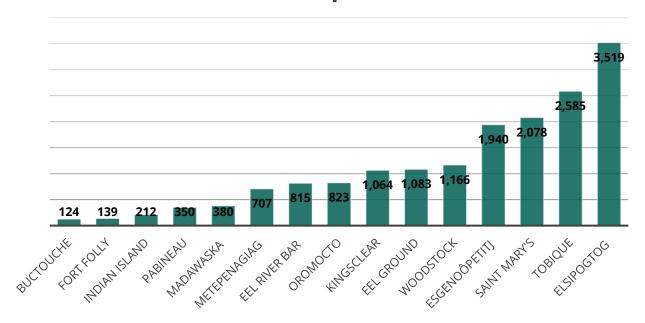
<sup>1)</sup> They contain no information on any non-registered individuals who may be living on reserve, and

<sup>2)</sup> Similarly, they contain no information on any members registered to other bands who may be living on reserve.

<sup>6</sup> **Source:** INAC's Indian Registry System as of Dec. 31, 2021

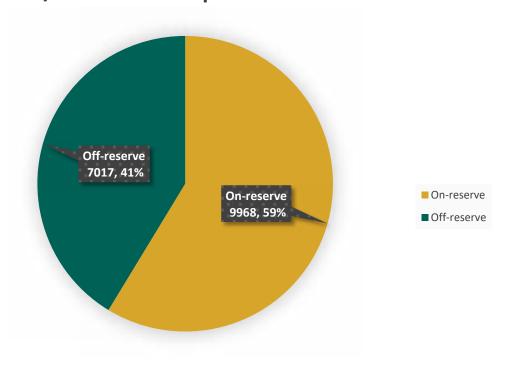
#### **CHART 2A**

## **First Nations Population - 2021**



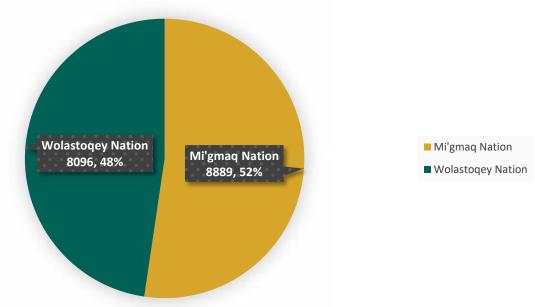
#### **CHART 2B**

### On/Off-Reserve Population- 2021

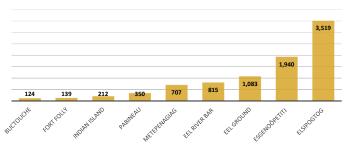


#### **CHART 2C**





Mi'gmaq Nation - 2021



Wolastogey Nation - 2021

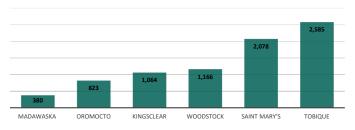


TABLE 3

FIRST NATIONS POPULATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK				
YEAR	TOTAL	ON-RESERVE	OFF-RESERVE	
2012	14,649	9,113	5,536	
2013	14,978	9,233	5,740	
2014	15,249	9,366	5,883	
2015	15,506	9,501	6,005	
2016	15,830	9,644	6,186	
2017	16,123	9,732	6,391	
2018	16,246	9,781	6,465	
2019	16,509	9,889	6,620	
2020	16,662	9,922	6,740	
2021	16,985	9,968	7,017	

#### CHART 3



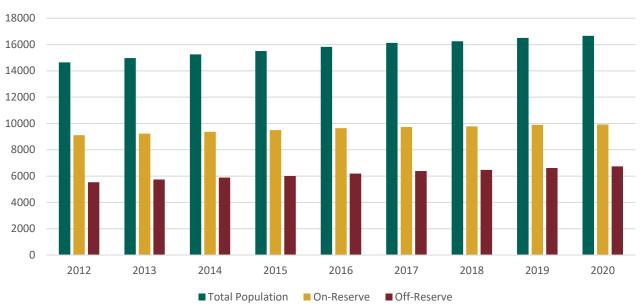
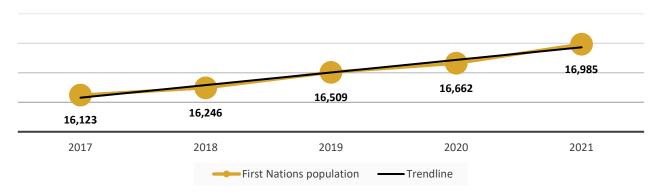


TABLE 4

NEW BRUNSWICK AND FIRST NATIONS POPULATION			
YEAR	NEW BRUNSWICK POPULATION <sup>7</sup>	FIRST NATIONS POPULATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK <sup>8</sup>	
2017	759,655	16,123	
2018	772,238	16,246	
2019	780,021	16,509	
2020	781,476	16,662	
2021	789,225	16,985	

#### CHART 4A

## First Nations population in New Brunswick

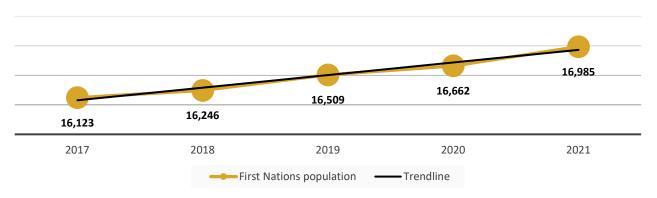


<sup>7</sup> **Source:** Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0009-01Population estimates, quarterly

<sup>8</sup> **Source:** INAC's Indian Registry System.

#### CHART 4B

## First Nations population in New Brunswick

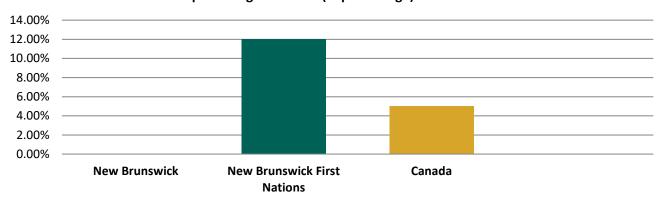


#### TABLE 5

POPULATION GROWTH <sup>9</sup>			
YEAR	NEW BRUNSWICK POPULATION	FIRST NATIONS POPULATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK	CANADA POPULATION
2017	751,171	13,948	33,476,688
2018	747,101	15,830	35,151,728
2019	-0.5%	12%	5%

#### CHART 5

#### Population growth rate (in percentage) 2011-2016



<sup>9</sup> **Source:** Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

