



Wolastoqey Nation
In New Brunswick

2025-2026

Annual Report



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Our role is to provide technical support and advice to the Wolastoqey/Wəlastəkwey Communities in New Brunswick on matters that relate to Wolastoqey/Wəlastəkwey constitutionally protected Aboriginal and Treaty Rights. Our mandate is to ensure Wolastoqey/Wəlastəkwey Communities can be properly consulted and advocated for, in a way that upholds Wolastoqey/Wəlastəkwey constitutionally protected Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.



A message from our Nihkanatpat

2025 represented the 300th anniversary of the 1726 Peace and Friendship Treaties. Those Treaties are not relics of the past; they are living covenants that guide us today. Our ancestors entered these sacred agreements as allies, never surrendering their homeland, lands, or waters.

As the Nihkanatpat of the Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick (WNNB), our daily work is grounded in providing the technical and strategic support our Chiefs and Councils need to defend our constitutionally protected rights. Technical expertise provides the "muscles" for our rights-based advocacy. Over the past year, WNNB has expanded its staffing and infrastructure, including upgraded assets like trucks and boats, and a social media presence nearing 5,700 followers to ensure transparency. This growth enables us to manage high-stakes files, such as providing high-level environmental scans for the Sisson Mine and leading species stewardship through the Mactaquac smolt-to-adult supplementation program. These upgrades ensure our Chiefs are supported by the highest caliber of data and evidence. The work our staff does ensures our Nation's voice is powerful and central to every decision impacting our territory.

We are all Treaty people, bound by a collective responsibility to protect this land and its resources. Guided by the wisdom of our Elders and fueled by the resilience of our communities, we vow to carry our ancestors' resolve forward. Together, we will continue to assert our rights, protect what has been left in our care, and build a self-determined future where our youth and future generations can thrive.

Dr. John Cloutier
WNNB Nihkanatpat |
Executive Director



The Wolastoqiyik

Wəlastəkwiyyik



The Wolastoqiyik / Wəlastəkwiyyik are the Indigenous people of the Wolastoq / Wəlastəkw watershed and adjacent areas. Our traditional territory encompasses lands as well as marine and fresh waters from the Bay of Fundy in the south to the St. Lawrence River in the north. This large territory includes parts of the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Québec as well as northeastern Maine in the United States. The Wolastoqiyik/Wəlastəkwiyyik are also sometimes known as “the Maliseet”, a name given to us by our Mi’kmaq neighbours.

A Vision for Wolastoqey Sovereignty and Prosperity: A Message from the Six Wolastoqey Chiefs



The Wolastoqey Homeland is an ancestral inheritance, held by inherent rights and protected by the sacred trust of our traditional, unceded territory. This is rooted in the Peace and Friendship Treaties of the 1700s, which were clear covenants of peace and alliance between sovereign nations.

This historical grounding dictates a modern governance model that restores our communities and our citizens, reclaims our economic sovereignty, and reroots our connection to lands and waters that were never surrendered or ceded.

Fiscal autonomy is central to self-governance. An example of our move towards this, on September 25, 2025, we signed historic revenue-sharing agreements with Premier Susan Holt and Minister Keith Chiasson. This event marked the definitive reversal of the 2021 unilateral termination by the previous administration, replacing a paternalistic, top-down structure with a model of respect and reciprocity. This "own-source revenue" empowers our Nations to fund essential services—healthcare, education, eldercare, housing, and language programs—without provincial interference.

A Vision for Wolastoqey Sovereignty and Prosperity: A Message from the Six Wolastoqey Chiefs



The year 2025 has been a definitive period of reclamation. We honor the resilience of our ancestors as we build a legacy for our youth and future generations. We express our deepest gratitude for the collective strength of our six communities: Sitansisk, Neqotkuk, Bilijk, Matawaskiye, Welamukotuk, and Wotstak. Every decision made today is a commitment to the Seven Generations, ensuring our sovereignty is exercised and our prosperity secured for all time.

Chief Justice Gruben

Chief Patricia Bernard

Chief Ross Perley

Chief Tim Paul

Chief Allan Polchies Jr.

Chief Scott Paul



Ethnohistory



Photo WNNB's Ethnohistorian assisting Dr. William Wadsworth with a Magnetometry Survey on Eqpahaq Island

TEAM

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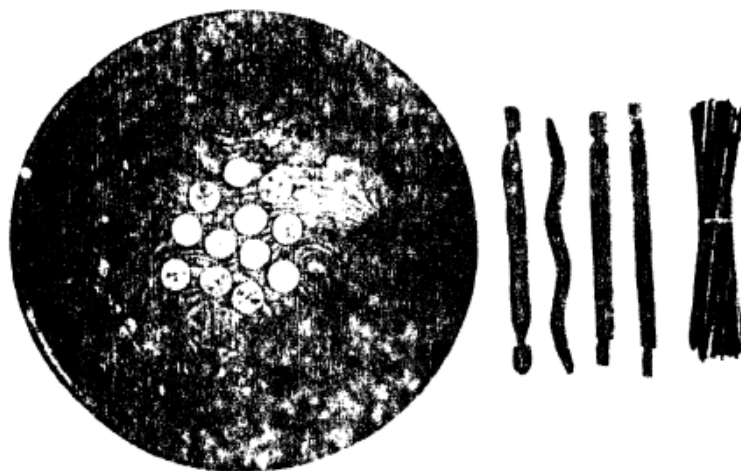
DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Wolastoqey/Wəlastəkwey Rights Manual, 2nd Edition

Jason worked with WNNB's communication coordinator, Billy Weale to produce an illustrated version of the Wolastoqey/Wəlastəkwey Rights Manual using art work by Percy Sacobie and Natalie Sappier. This educational booklet provides community members and the general public with an introduction to Wolastoqey/Wəlastəkwey history, Treaty Rights, Aboriginal Rights, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and other topics. If you do not already have a copy please ask our staff to provide you with one.

Wolastoqey/Wəlastəkwey Gaming & Sporting Traditions

In Autumn, 2025 Jason conducted additional research on Wolastoqey/Wəlastəkwey Gaming and Sporting Traditions to compile more information for communities to better understand their rights to undertake these activities. Topics researched include the Wolastoqey/Wəlastəkwey dice bowl game (which sometimes involved high wagers and considerable economic exchange within and between communities), as well as traditional sports such as Snow Snakes, canoe races, and Atlatl throwing (2 foot dart also used in combat). This information has also been shared with Wolastoqi/Wəlastəkwi educators to assist with making this cultural information available to Wolastoqi youth.



*Black and White photo of Dice and Bowl Game Set
From Mechling "The Malecite Indians," no page.*

Archaeological Fieldwork

Assisted with the design and undertaking of archaeological fieldwork at the mouth of the Oromocto River and on Eqpahaq Island to help increase the protection of historic Wolastoqey/Wəlastəkwey cemeteries in these areas. In addition, helped with archaeological fieldwork on the Brothers Islands and Fulton Island. Part of the archaeological survey work on Eqpahaq Island and Fulton Island used non invasive (no soil disturbance) technologies such as drone-based Lidar surveys and Magnetometry to help understand surface and underground features.

Land & Resource Use Study

Contributed historical information to assist with WNNB's Indigenous Land and Resource Use study focused on Base Gaagetown, and provided cultural information to assist Oromocto community members with their discussions with the Canadian Armed Forces over increasing Wolastoqey use of Nerepis Falls and other lands and waters within the Base.

Wolastoqey Occupancy & Resource Use

Jason conducted historical research on Wolastoqey occupancy and resource use in Saint John to help Wolastoqey/Wəlastəkwey communities in their negotiations with the federal government over potentially obtaining the Custom House Property in the city, and to demonstrate that the area was historically exclusive Wolastoqey territory. Throughout the past year Jason has also provided ethnohistorical and land use information to WNNB colleagues and RDCCS to assist with many other files. Recently he has been conducting research on a large collection of 18th century Nova Scotia records that contains information on Wolastoqey/Wəlastəkwey land use, treaties, and military activities.



Forestry



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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

ECCC Land acquisition

Activities to effectively manage the lands that the Wolastoqiyik purchased with funds provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada in 2024-25 are still underway. Done in partnership with CFI, NTNB, MTI, FFHR, PRG and WNNB is the project lead. The project is working towards Canada's 30x30 initiative. Protecting 30% of Canadian forests from industrial/developmental entities.

Lands acquired by WNNB are held by the Nation's land holding co. and Community members will have access to these lands for hunting, fishing, recreation, on the land knowledge transfer, camping, harvesting of medicines/foods, harvesting black ash and white birch bark for crafting. Initial consultation for this project began in 2024. Community input from engagement sessions told us that conservation of the lands should be the main priority of project management outcomes and that lands with water access have a higher purchasing priority. WNNB will continue acquire properties through this project until 2030.

Relationship with the AV Group

A memorandum of understanding was signed by AV Group (AVG) and the six Wolastoqey Chiefs in February 2023. WNNB has been conducting reviews and field visits on blocks that may have impact to rights. AVG currently has 100% acceptance for block amendments made by WNNB. There is an ongoing land back conversation with AVG. They pledged to return land to the Nation in 2023. We will be reviewing land back candidates during WNNB's AGA. When the market is better, AVG is looking to offer preferential hiring and training to qualified Wolastoqey community members to work in their mills and forestry operations.

Shared Landscape Initiative

The Government of New Brunswick (GNB) is undertaking a conservation project funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada, contributing to Canada's 30x30 conservation objectives. Running from 2026 to 2030, the project aims to increase the proportion of Crown land in New Brunswick managed for conservation from approximately 10.5% to 15%. In 2026, the project is using forestry licence lands to contribute to conservation values, with forestry licensees tasked by DNRED with providing recommendations on how conservation targets could be met within their licences. One proposal from JDI involved swapping prime conservation lands for areas that could be harvested, which was strongly challenged by WNNB and MTI through public letters, sparking broader public concern.

The proposed land swap was ultimately stopped, creating the need to develop new conservation objectives for 2026. From 2027-2030, the project is expected to rely increasingly on public contributions and land acquisition to meet its conservation goals. Importantly, the project is currently on track to increase conservation values in New Brunswick while ensuring that Wolastoqey Treaty rights are not impacted. We will continue to monitor this project.

WWF Seed Collection

WWF is funding a native seed collection project in partnership with Woodstock First Nation. This year is expected to be a strong seed year for black ash, and WNNB and Woodstock First Nation will work together to harvest seeds for storage in the National Indigenous Seed Bank. The project will help support the long-term preservation of native plant species and contribute to the protection of culturally and ecologically important seeds for future use.



Fisheries



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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Polamuwok Back | Mactaquac Biodiversity Facility Closure

The Mactaquac Biodiversity Facility (MBF) plays a critical role in protecting *Polamuwok* – Atlantic Salmon - on Wolastoq. It was established in 1968 by an agreement between the federal government and NB Power that recognized the negative impacts the Mactaquac Dam would have on salmon and was meant to mitigate those impacts. In addition to other programs, the MBF supports captive rearing of salmon smolts from the Tobique River to ensure that enough adult fish return to there to spawn.

In January 2026, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) announced that they would be closing the Mactaquac Biodiversity Facility and the programs operating there as a cost-cutting measure. This decision was taken without consulting the Wolastoqiyik or regard to our Aboriginal and Treaty Rights to salmon. The decision also did not consider the impact this closure would have on the viability of Atlantic Salmon numbers above the Mactaquac Dam, or the critical role the facility plays in supporting fish passage at the dam.

WNNB responded by launching the *Polamuwok Back* campaign. Our goal was to convince government to reverse their decision and allow the Wolastoqiyik toward transitioning the programs that are operated there. The campaign enlisted allies, partner organizations and the public to file a formal petition to the House of Commons, write letters to key members of Parliament, and educate the public about the importance of the facility and the programs that operate there. The Wolastoqey Chiefs and WNNB staff met with the federal Fisheries Minister, Hon. Joanne Thompson in Ottawa at the beginning of June to discuss the closure.

Our campaign was successful – in August 2026, the Minister announced that the MBF would remain open until the programs that operate there could be successfully transitioned. We are now working with DFO, NB Power and other groups to determine next steps and ensure that salmon conservation programs can be strengthened and expanded into the future.

Mactaquac Life Achievement Project

The Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick fisheries team has been heavily involved with consultation surrounding the Mactaquac Life Achievement Project (MLAP). While the project received EIA approval from the province in 2025, at the same time establishing a Project Agreement with the Wolastoqey Chiefs, there are several regulatory and design issues that will impact fish.

As part of MLAP, NB Power will be installing new upstream and downstream fish passage at Mactaquac. While details are still being finalized, the new upstream fish passage system will provide multi-species passage, including Polamuwok (salmon), gaspereau, American Shad, American eel, and sea lamprey. We are also pushing for changes to how non-migratory fish such as trout and perch are handled at the facility to make sure their populations are also protected.

The new fish passage system will require the existing fish passage system to be demolished. Other activities associated with MLAP will also harm fish habitat. As a result, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is requiring NB Power to obtain a Fisheries Act Authorization for the work. To obtain a Fisheries Act Authorization, NB Power must also submit an approved offsetting plan – i.e. work that will be undertaken to improve fish habitat/restore populations elsewhere. WNNB is actively involved with these discussions, including around the size of offsetting work that is required and what the offsetting project will look like. Please stay tuned for more information about this project this fall!

Brothers Islands Protected Area Planning

Since September 2025, WNNB has continued work to support the future stewardship of the Brothers Islands, located in Menahqesk (Saint John), NB. Indian and Goat Islands are reserve lands currently shared by four Wolastoqey communities (Bilijk, Matawaskiye, Neqotkuk, and Wotstak), with work underway to explore shared ownership among all six communities. Burnt Island, a third island within the Brothers Islands, is currently under federal ownership through Indigenous Affairs. Over the past year, WNNB has teamed up with UNB's Anthropology Department and graduate students to complete an archaeological walk-through assessment of Indian and Goat Islands. WNNB is planning a community gathering on September 24, 2026, to reconnect our people with the islands and hear community priorities, values, knowledge, and stories to help guide their future care and stewardship, including conversations around bringing Burnt Island back under Wolastoqey care.

Blue Mussel Contaminant Study

After a two-year hiatus due to permitting issues, WNNB was able to resume our blue mussel contaminant study, this time with a focus on Passamaquoddy Bay and Maces Bay – two areas that are important for Wolastoqey scallop, lobster, and urchin fisheries. The project involves using mussels that are collected from the wild and placing them in different locations in the two bays. The mussels are left to feed and grow for three months, then retrieved. We measure how much the mussels have grown, as well as how contaminant levels in their tissues have changed. This information provides us with knowledge about environmental conditions in the Bay of Fundy, including a baseline that will allow us to measure change into the future. This work supports us in protecting Wolastoqey rights by identifying areas with potential contaminant issues, and understanding how new resource development will impact coastal areas in the Bay of Fundy.

Nashwaak Watershed Water Quality Baseline – Wolastoq Ecosystem Initiative

This two-year project strengthens long-term watershed monitoring in the Nashwaak watershed by expanding the Nashwaak Watershed Association Inc. (NWA)I's existing 17-site monitoring program with a targeted suite of parameters to improve the detection of cumulative effects on water quality and ecosystem health. The project is delivered through a partnership between NWA)I and WNNB, combining scientific monitoring with Indigenous stewardship. Wolastoqey Guardians play an active role in field sampling, data collection, and interpretation while receiving training in advanced monitoring techniques, safety, and data management to strengthen Indigenous-led monitoring capacity. Standardized sampling protocols and accredited laboratory analysis ensure high-quality, reliable data. Project findings will be shared through annual and final reports, an interactive online dashboard, community meetings, and outreach activities to make results accessible to watershed stakeholders. By improving baseline knowledge and supporting evidence-based decision-making, the project contributes to integrated watershed planning, adaptive management, and the long-term protection and stewardship of the Nashwaak watershed.



Energy



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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Relationship with Canadian Nuclear Safety Committee

WNNB's work with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) continues to focus on strengthening the working relationship, improving two-way information sharing, and ensuring that regulatory matters related to the Point Lepreau site are communicated directly to WNNB. This is important because activities at Point Lepreau take place within Wolastoqey territory and may be of interest to Wolastoqey communities. Through regular meetings, issue tracking, and engagement activities, WNNB has been able to raise questions, identify areas of interest, and better understand how CNSC carries out its regulatory role.

Over the past year, WNNB participated in CNSC's listening tour initiative. This national initiative involved engagement with 19 Nations and communities to gather policy-level feedback on how CNSC engages, consults, and regulates.

The results will be reflected in a What We Learned Report: CNSC Listening Tour, which is expected to summarize what CNSC has been doing well and where improvements may be needed. WNNB will also participate in reviewing the accuracy of what was shared during the visit before the report is finalized.

WNNB had the opportunity to observe two CNSC site inspections at Point Lepreau:

- Solid Radioactive Waste Management Facility inspection: This quarterly field inspection focused on the physical condition of infrastructure housing waste materials, whether equipment was being regularly inspected by the licensee, NB Power, and the overall condition of the site.
- Environmental sampling program inspection: This inspection focused on NB Power's environmental sampling program, including whether proper sampling techniques were being used and whether samples were collected from various locations in and around the site to support a fuller representation of environmental conditions.

This relationship also provides WNNB with opportunities to review CNSC's Regulatory Oversight Reports, which summarize inspections and regulatory activities that took place over the year. In addition, CNSC invited WNNB staff to tour its internal laboratory facility, which conducts laboratory analysis for CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program at licensed sites across Canada. During the tour, WNNB staff observed the life cycle of a sample once it arrives at the lab.

Together, these activities help WNNB's Energy Department build technical knowledge, support informed participation in regulatory processes, and provide community members with clearer updates on nuclear-related activities and oversight taking place in Wolastoqey territory.

Salmon River Wind Farm – Natural Forces Engagement Activities

WNNB supported engagement activities with Natural Forces for the Salmon River Wind Farm project to help ensure Wolastoqey community members had meaningful opportunities to learn about the project, ask questions, visit the proposed area, and contribute community and cultural perspectives to the environmental review process. The Salmon River Wind Project is being advanced by Wolastoqey Resource Developments Inc. in partnership with Natural Forces, it is a proposed wind energy project in southern New Brunswick, approximately 9 km southwest of Hammondvale on provincial Crown land. The project is expected to include up to 34 turbines, with an approximate generating capacity of 203 MW, and would also require an approximately 35 km transmission line connection to the NB Power grid. Because the project is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, engagement with Wolastoqey communities has been an important part of helping members understand the project footprint, the potential benefits, and the issues that require further review.

As part of this work, WNNB and Natural Forces scheduled community visits in Wolastoqey communities. These visits were intended to bring project information directly to community members rather than relying only on written notices or technical documents. They created space for members to hear updates, ask questions about the proposed development, raise concerns about land use and environmental effects, and better understand how the project may relate to Wolastoqey interests and rights. This community-based approach also helped identify where additional plain-language information, follow-up discussions, or technical review may be needed as the project moves through the EIA process.

WNNB also supported four site visits connected to the proposed project area. Two of these visits provided community members with an opportunity to see the landscape directly, including the general terrain and areas being considered as part of the project review. These visits were important because maps and project descriptions do not always communicate what a place looks and feels like on the ground. The other two site visits brought a working group to the area to provide cultural and traditional context to the proponents. These visits supported a more place-based understanding of the project area by allowing participants to speak to Wolastoqey connections to land, water, plants, wildlife, travel routes, harvesting, and other values that may not be fully captured through Western technical studies alone.

SOAR Professional Services also supported the process of braiding Indigenous Knowledge into the EIA. This work, which is intended to bring Wolastoqey knowledge, lived experience, and responsibilities to land and water into conversation with the technical information being prepared for the environmental review. This approach creates opportunities to include Indigenous perspectives through site visits, information sessions, open dialogue, shared learning, and the respectful integration of Wolastoqey knowledge with Western science. This reporting is still being verified and finalized, but the engagement work to date represents an important step toward ensuring the Salmon River Wind Farm project is reviewed not only as an energy project, but also as a project taking place within Wolastoqey territory, where community knowledge, cultural context, and responsibilities to future generations must remain central.

Building the Indigenous Led SMR Supply Chain

The Enabling SMR Project is a multi-year initiative jointly led by WNNB and the North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council (NSMTC). The project was started to build a structured, Indigenous-led pathway into New Brunswick's emerging SMR sector by identifying opportunities, assessing readiness, and developing a long-term strategy for Indigenous participation in nuclear supply chains. The project is organized into three phases, each building on the findings of the previous one.

Phase 1 - focused on establishing a foundational understanding of the SMR supply chain and the current position of Indigenous businesses within it. Through an environmental scan, literature review, and engagement with more than sixty individuals across industry, government, and Indigenous organizations, Phase 1 identified several systemic gaps. These included limited nuclear-ready Indigenous businesses, uncertainty around SMR market timelines, and the need for specialized training, certification, and capacity development. The Phase 1 Gap Analysis provided a baseline: it clarified where Indigenous businesses stand today and what barriers must be addressed to enable meaningful participation in future SMR development.

Phase 2 - the most recent phase completed, its main objective was to map the Indigenous business landscape across New Brunswick and assess the readiness of Indigenous-owned companies to participate in SMR-related opportunities. This phase produced the first comprehensive inventory of Indigenous businesses relevant to the nuclear supply chain, documenting their capabilities, certifications, workforce strengths, and areas requiring development. Phase 2 identified several priority sectors where Indigenous businesses could realistically enter the SMR supply chain, including construction, environmental monitoring, logistics, fabrication, and professional services. It also verified critical gaps that must be addressed to ensure readiness for nuclear procurement standards—such as quality assurance systems, safety culture requirements, specialized training, and navigation of complex procurement processes. It gives WNNB and NSMTC a clear picture of Indigenous economic capacity today, enabling informed planning for workforce development, procurement strategies, partnership models, and engagement with utilities.

Phase 3 - the current working stage, the findings from Phases 1 and 2 of this project will inform the phase 3 work that is focused on the co-development of a strategic plan to grow indigenous business participation in the nuclear supply chain. The strategic plan, to be developed between April 2026 – March 2027, will outline long -term goals, actionable steps, and governance responsive to the challenges and opportunities identified to-date, such as enhancing procurement readiness, increasing early visibility of opportunities, reducing financial barriers, and fostering partnerships that are fair, transparent, and built for meaningful indigenous participation.



Archaeology



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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Bilateral Archaeology Table Terms of Reference GNB and WNNB (Strategic Initiative)

The Archaeology Bilateral Table seeks to co-create an agreement that establishes collaborative processes and measures for sharing archaeological data, identifying and conserving Archaeological Resources, and ensuring a forum to discuss emerging issues and interests. The objectives fall under four main themes: 1) Communication and Information Sharing, 2) Stewardship and Co-management of Archaeological Resources and Sites, 3) Ownership, Cultural Affiliation, and Repatriation, 4) Cross-departmental Collaboration and Consistency in Policy.

The development of this initiative is ongoing.

2025-2026

University of New Brunswick Memorandum of Understanding (Strategic Initiative)

This MOU is being developed to formally outline roles and responsibilities regarding the care and stewardship of archaeological material currently located at UNB. The MOU will address involve the following:

Designate appropriate UNB facilities as temporary repositories for Wolastoqey cultural objects and information where such objects can be both cared for and studied, and where community members can access the objects and associated information in an appropriate manner,

Develop educational opportunities at UNB in collaboration with WNNB specifically aimed at enabling Wabanaki people to obtain skills and credentials, and access educational pathways in heritage and archaeological fields, and

Undertake research relating to Wabanaki archaeology that results in information that is accessible to WNNB and it's member communities, that enables the development of educational materials for Wabanaki youth, and that supports efforts in establishing connection between Wolastoqiyik in the present and people living in Wabanakik in the past.

The development of this initiative is ongoing.

Lower Wolastoq Erosion Project (Research Archaeology)

The LWEP is a collaboration among researchers at ULETH, UNB, and WNNB, working with community members and students to better understand the effects of erosion on Wolastoqey archaeological sites and landscapes. Based on feedback from surveys conducted in 2025, the following sites were focused on during the 2026 field season:

Eqpahaq Island: continuation of shoreline erosion survey, conducted detailed drone-based mapping (LiDAR and orthophotographic imaging), and used non-invasive remote sensing techniques to identify and/or delineate a Wolastoqiyik burial site on the island and possible archaeologically significant features (e.g., a council house and wigwam village referred to in historical documents). Conducting high-precision GPS mapping of the island and features.

Fulton Island: continuation of shoreline erosion survey, expanded excavation at BIDn-12 to identify in situ late pre-Contact/early post-Contact Wolastoqiyik settlement on the island and conducted detailed drone-based mapping (LiDAR and orthophotographic imaging) of the island and continuing high-precision GPS mapping.

Mouth of the Oromocto River/Burton Bridge: conducted shoreline survey to identify eroding archaeological sites and/or known or suspected burial sites in the area.

Cow Point: continuation of shoreline erosion survey.

Community engagement sessions are being planned for sharing project information and discussing what comes next for the project.

Bailey Project (Research Archaeology)

The Bailey Collection consists of over 500 Wabanaki belongings gathered in the 19th and 20th Centuries collected from the Wolastoq River Valley. The collection contains significant artifacts spanning from 9500 years BP to as recent as the 19th century and includes probable burial items from the Maquapit Lake area. The artifacts have been held in the archives at UNB for decades.

The collection has received minimal prior archaeological study and limited Wolastoqi community access to date. Bailey's unconsented collection and trading practices damaged sites and dispersed cultural belongings across North America.

The goals of the Bailey Project are to: 1) Complete a full catalogue the collection with measurements and artifact descriptions 2) Photograph the entire collection 3) Complete 3D scanning of the artifacts, create 3D digital models, and cast some of the possessions 4) To regularly update WNNB and facilitate ongoing visits to the collection by Wolastoqiyik community members 5) Identify additional funding opportunities to complete the project goals

Princess Margret Bridge Cultural Resource Management (Development Archaeology)

DTI is proposing to build a new roundabout on the northside of the Princess Margaret Bridge. Colbr Consulting has been carrying out archaeological testing in the area since the fall of 2025.

Colbr consulting is carrying-out mechanical testing in the project development area by use of skid-steer mounted encased augers capable of quickly excavating down to 2.5 meters.

In the Fall of 2025, Colbr identified a number of precontact artifacts and one precontact feature (a fire hearth) while testing. In the 2026 field season, Colbr is conducting radial testing of the positive test pits to further delineate the site. Additional testing areas will be surveyed throughout the field season.

Nashwaak Bridge Taymouth Cultural Resource Management (Development Archaeology)

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure has deemed that the Nashwaak Bridge No.5 in Taymouth needs to be replaced, as such an archaeological assessment was required.

DTI has contracted Davis MacIntyre and Associates to carry out archaeological testing. During the 2025 field season, no precontact artifacts were encountered however, the 2026 excavations did produce artifacts of Indigenous origin: lithic flakes struck from local volcanic stones

PLNGS Cultural Resource Management (Development Archaeology)

NB Power has been carrying out a site-wide archaeological assessment as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment related to the Small Modular Nuclear Reactor Project. The New Brunswick Museum Archaeological Field Unit was contracted to carry out the work and has been doing so since 2023. Testing has produced historic period artifacts and precontact lithic flakes. Testing is ongoing.

Henderson Settlement Cultural Resource Management (Development Archaeology)

An Indigenous archaeological site was identified in June 2026 during an archaeological impact assessment for a Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) bridge replacement project at Henderson Brook, located in Henderson Settlement, Queens County.

The site was identified during sub-surface archaeological testing carried out as part of the assessment. Archaeologists found five confirmed artifacts and two possible artifacts in seven test pits. These consisted of stone materials identified as Tobique-like chert or Washademoak-like chert. Based on the field examination completed to date, these materials appear to be related to day-to-day activities.

Work near the archaeological site has ceased while DTI is examining possible options and considering next steps.

Upcoming: Sussex Flood Diversion Channel (Development Archaeology)

The Town of Sussex is planning the development of a flood diversion channel to protect the downtown area against frequent flooding. Being located with the Kennebecasis River Valley, the area could host intact or disturbed archaeological components, therefore an archaeological assessment is being carried out by Colbr Consulting. A walkover survey has been carried out and further testing is being planned for a later date.

Upcoming: Sisson Archaeological Mitigation (Development Archaeology)

A full excavation of the 2 registered archaeological sites located within the Sisson Project Development Area will be carried out in the fall of 2026. CRM group has been contracted to carry out the excavations with the participation of Indigenous staff (8 field technicians will be hired).

Upcoming: Salmon River and Paqt'smawei Sipu (Development Archaeology)

Archaeological walkover surveys were carried out for both projects in 2025 by CRM Group on behalf of Dillon Consulting. Sub-surface testing will be carried out in the high potential areas at a later date.

Magaguadavic Lake (Archaeological Site Stewardship)

A portion of property held by AV Nackawic was transferred to the Town of Harvey for the development of a green space park without consultation with WNNB. WNNB knew of landuse in the area and carried out a survey. Precontact artifacts were collected and taken to the Archaeological Services NB to register the site. Conversations are ongoing on how to best preserve the site and to find out how the Crown Lands Transfer process failed to address Wolastoqey rights and interests.

Brothers Islands Indian Island (Archaeological Site Stewardship)

A large group consisting of members from WNNB, UNB, and community members visited Indian Island and Goat Island in the Brothers Islands. A shoreline survey was carried out and various precontact artifacts collected. All artifacts are currently being studied and stored at UNB.

Fredericton Junction (Archaeological Site Stewardship)

Erosion survey in spring of 2026, various artifacts collected.

Grand Lake/Maquapit Lake (Archaeological Site Stewardship)

Shoreline survey in spring of 2026, identified previously unregistered archaeological site.

Meduxnekaeg River (Archaeological Site Stewardship)

Erosion survey in spring of 2026, identified a previously unregistered archaeological site.

Grafton, Woodstock (Archaeological Site Stewardship)

In response to lower levels in the Mactaquac Headpond, a shoreline survey was carried out in Grafton on a registered archaeological site, various precontact artifacts were collected.

Nerapis Falls (Archaeological Site Stewardship)

While visiting Nerapis Falls on Base Gagetown as part of landuse discussions, a precontact artifact was collected from the banks of the river along the falls.

Ring Island (Archaeological Site Stewardship)

WNNB learned through Dr. Ken Holyoke that archaeological surface collection or potential looting was taking place on the Ring Island archaeological site located in Maquapit lake. Staff from WNNB and GNB conducted a shoreline survey to salvage the archaeological material left onsite.



Consultation



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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Request for input on United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples implementation – Justice Canada:

As reported last year, Justice Canada has reached out to request the input of the Wolastoqiyik on priority issues for implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the Government of Canada. WNNB has distributed background materials on the UN Declaration to communities, consisting of a Citizens' Guide to the UN Declaration, a plain-language summary of the articles of the Declaration, and a Children's Guide to the UN Declaration.

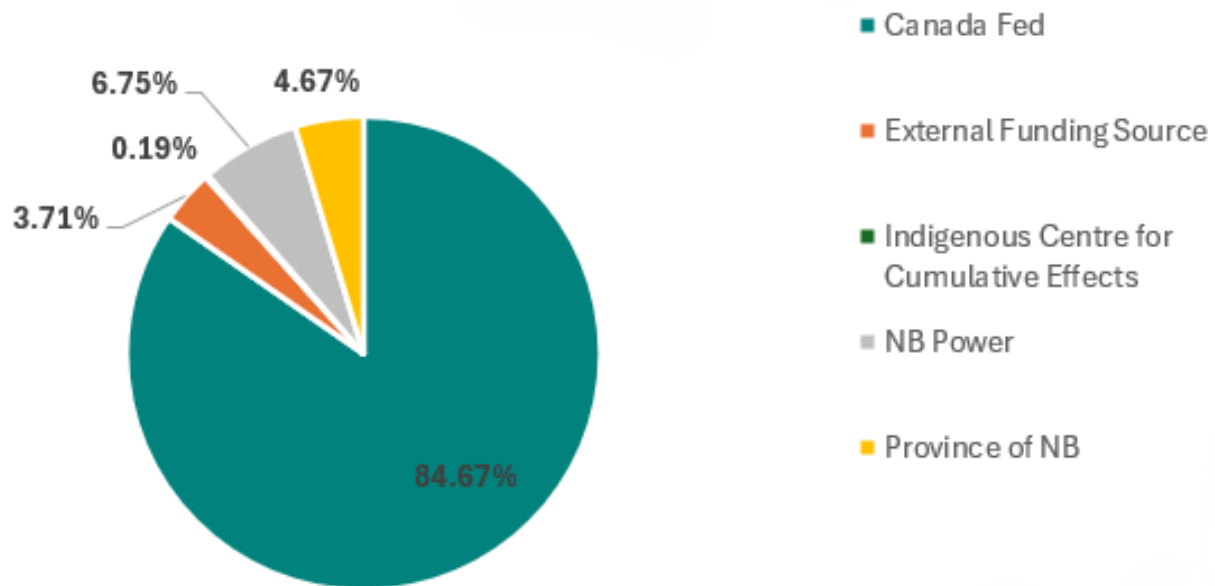
WNNB also launched an art contest this spring to encourage community members to provide their creative input on what is most important for the federal government to do to implement the UN Declaration; the art contest closes the end of September. Contestants need to register with WNNB (and those under 16 need parental consent to participate) and then submit photos of their artwork once it is completed. The artworks will be judged by a panel of respected Elders and Knowledge-Keepers, with prizes for the winner and two runners-up.

In October, WNNB will also host a deliberative discussion among Wolastoqey community members of the issues that they see as priorities for federal implementation of the UN Declaration. We will host events simultaneously in two locations (most likely Fredericton and Edmundston) with the two locations linked virtually, so everyone can participate in the discussion together. This will give community members an opportunity to discuss everyone's ideas for implementing the UN Declaration and come to a consensus on the advice Wolastoqiyik, though WNNB, want to give to the Government of Canada. Anyone who would be interested in being part of this discussion can tell us by e-mailing consultation@wolastoqey.ca or by speaking with us at the Annual General Assembly this September.

As well, we will be creating a survey, based on what we hear in the deliberative discussion, to get the input of those who want to be heard but were unable to participate in the deliberative discussion session, and will hold a number of information sessions in schools to get input specifically from youth. The information we collect from community members will form the core of a report to Justice Canada on Wolastoqey recommendations for the Government of Canada's implementation of the UN Declaration; this report will be transmitted to Justice Canada in the spring of 2027.

Funding Breakdown

The following outlines the funding sources that enable WNNB to carry out its initiatives.



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