

Aboriginal Affairs

Annual Report
2015–2016

**Aboriginal Affairs
Annual Report 2015–2016**

Province of New Brunswick
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Transmittal letters

From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau
Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick

May it please your Honour:

It is my privilege to submit the Annual Report of the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat, Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. E. J. Doherty, M.D.
Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs

From the Deputy Minister to Minister

Honourable E. J. Doherty
Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs

Sir:

I am pleased to be able to present the Annual Report describing operations of the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat for the fiscal year April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick C. Francis
Deputy Minister

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Minister's message

As the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, I am proud of our government's commitment to continue working with First Nation communities to strengthen our relationship through collaboration and mutual respect.

New Brunswick is home to 15 diverse and unique Mi'kmaq and Wolastokiyik (Maliseet) communities. I am working with the chiefs of these communities to look for opportunities in areas of partnerships, negotiation and co-operation.

During the 2015–2016 fiscal year, I led the delegation to the second National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Winnipeg. I was honoured to once again join national Aboriginal organizations, provincial and federal representatives as well as family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls from across the country at this important event. It was an opportunity to hear directly from family members, engage in discussions on moving the issue forward and to collaborate on identifying solutions to reduce violence against Indigenous women and girls.

As part of our government's collaborative relationship with First Nation communities, we continue to work closely together to foster economic opportunities. During the 2015–2016 fiscal year, we were proud to announce the completion of a bridge on Esgenoôpetitj First Nation, which will allow the community to develop 249 hectares (600 acres) of reserve land for blueberry development. The bridge was made possible in part by an investment of \$247,000 from the provincial government. The community is working to develop the area specifically for wild blueberry harvesting.

I encourage all New Brunswickers to take any opportunity to recognize the important contributions First Nations people have made to our province, to learn about Aboriginal history, and to celebrate Aboriginal culture. During the 2015–2016 fiscal year, our government provided 19 grants for First Nation communities, Aboriginal organizations and First Nation individuals for social, cultural and educational events around the province.

My colleagues and I will continue to work in partnership with industry, federal and provincial governments, and leaders to progress on issues most important to First Nations communities and for New Brunswick.



Dr. E.J. Doherty, M.D.
Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs

Deputy Minister's message

On behalf of the staff of the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat, I am pleased to present our 2015–2016 Annual Report. This report summarizes our progress this past fiscal year and our goals and priorities moving forward.

The Government of New Brunswick continues to be an active participant in the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group Committee (AAWG). This is a provincial/territorial and national Aboriginal organizations committee that addresses issues affecting Aboriginal peoples in Canada. New Brunswick continues to serve as co-lead on two sub-committees, Economic Development and Housing. We also participate as members on a number of other committees. While serving these committees, the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat works closely with provincial and territorial jurisdictions to support First Nations in New Brunswick and throughout Canada.

The Government of New Brunswick continues to make the prevention and awareness of violence against Aboriginal women and girls a priority. In February 2016 New Brunswick participated in the second National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. In collaboration with the Women's Equality Branch, we will continue to engage in discussions on moving the issue forward and to identify and develop solutions to improve the situation for Aboriginal women living in our province.

The Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat works closely with government departments to advance the priorities of First Nations communities in our province. This fiscal year, our focus was on First Nation education, housing, Aboriginal women and economic development. We will continue to focus on these important issues and more.

In conclusion, this has been a positive and productive year for the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat. I am proud of the work accomplished by staff, and I look forward to what the next fiscal year will bring. I trust that you will find this annual report informative.



Patrick Francis
Deputy Minister

Strategic priorities

Strategy management

The Government of New Brunswick (GNB) uses a formal management system built on leading business practices with the purpose to develop, communicate and review strategy. This process provides the public service with a proven methodology to execute strategy and continuously drive improvement.

The development of the strategy, using the formal management system, starts with a strategic vision of *Moving New Brunswick Forward*. This vision is anchored in four strategic themes which include:

1. **More jobs** — Creating the best environment for jobs to be generated by New Brunswickers, by businesses, by their ideas, by their entrepreneurial spirit, and by their hard work. This includes providing seamless support to businesses, leveraging new technologies and innovation by supporting research and development, and developing a skilled workforce by improving literacy and education.
2. **Fiscal responsibility** — Getting New Brunswick's fiscal house in order through a balanced approach to decrease costs and increase revenues.
3. **Best place to raise a family** — Designing social programs to make life more affordable and make New Brunswick the best place to raise a family.
4. **Smarter government** — Providing taxpayers with better value for their money by transforming the culture of government by eliminating waste and duplication, adopting new innovations in technology to improve services and savings, and improving accountability measures.

Highlights

During the 2015–2016 fiscal year, the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat focused on the following strategic priorities:

- ◆ *Under the grants program, which provides funding to First Nation communities, Aboriginal organizations and First Nation individuals for small-scale, non-profit projects/initiatives of a social, cultural and educational nature; the secretariat approved 19 grants, which range from \$250 to \$5,000 to fund social/cultural events such as Pow Wows and National Aboriginal Day celebrations; and educational events such as National Aboriginal Science Camp.*
- ◆ *Led a delegation of New Brunswick officials, which included Aboriginal leaders, Aboriginal women and government officials, to Winnipeg, Man., for the National Roundtable on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls in February 2016. This was the result of an August 2014 commitment by premiers and national Aboriginal organizations leaders to engage in focused discussion to reach targeted outcomes and to address and prevent violence against Aboriginal women and girls.*
- ◆ *The secretariat provided the Esgenoôpetitj First Nation \$21,000 toward the creation of a business plan for wild blueberry development.*
- ◆ *The secretariat provided the Oromocto First Nation \$5,000 toward the development of a business plan for the manufacturing of lobster traps.*
- ◆ *The secretariat provided the Eel River Bar First Nation \$25,000 for an infrastructure design plan.*
- ◆ *The secretariat provided the Woodstock First Nation \$15,000 toward the New Brunswick Indian Summer Games.*
- ◆ *The secretariat provided the Esgenoôpetitj First Nation \$15,000 toward a land survey for the advancement of the wild blueberry industry.*
- ◆ *The secretariat provided the Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick organization \$55,000 toward the 2017 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG).*
- ◆ *The secretariat supported the Joint Economic Development Initiatives Inc. (JEDI Inc.) with the planning, organizing and facilitating of the Aboriginal Economic Growth Opportunities Summit.*
- ◆ *In collaboration with the Department of Energy and Mines, the secretariat assisted with the facilitation of a First Nations program within the Mining and Petroleum Conference, held in Fredericton in November 2015.*
- ◆ *The secretariat organized several information and training sessions for provincial employees in regard to “Duty to Consult.”*
- ◆ *The Secretariat processed 18 requests made under the Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*

Performance measures

The performance measures do not reflect all of the day-to-day operation of the secretariat, but rather the strategic areas where it needs to focus improvement efforts. The following table summarizes the performance measures for the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat for 2015–2016.

More jobs	Measure
Support/develop the Aboriginal workforce.	Ratio to target of student recruitment.
Fiscal responsibility	Measure
Meet or underspend expense budget.	Ratio of actual to budgeted expenditures.
Smarter government	Measure
Focus funding on priorities.	Dollars reinvested in First Nations education.

More jobs

Objective of the measure

Support/develop Aboriginal workforce.

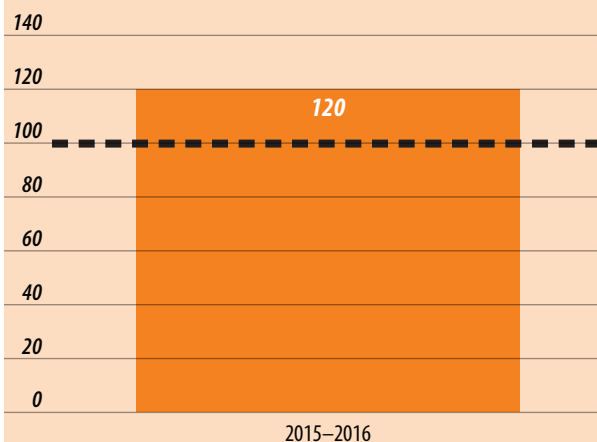
Measure

Ratio to target of student recruitment.

Description of measure

A target of 50 participants was identified for the new program of Archaeological Field Technician.

Student recruitment, Archaeological Field Technician (%)



Overall performance

The Archaeological Field Technician – Level 1 training program was designed as a 14-week certified program through the New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) and the Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (CCNB) and a partnership with Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat, the Department of Post-Secondary, Education, Training and Labour and the Archaeological Services Unit of the Department of Tourism, Heritage, and Culture.

The program provided learners with the skills to work as a technician on an archaeological dig site. Students learned relevant theory and the practical skills required to process artifacts from archaeological excavations, re-pack collections, keep records of work and organize documentation to be entered into a database. This course combined lab work, group work, site visits, guest speakers and classroom-based theory lessons.

— Baseline: N/A
- - - - - Target: 50 Participants
Actual: 60 Participants

Why do we measure this?

Investment in First Nation training and employment is a key priority of government.

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

Occupational training programs for archaeological field technicians were not available in New Brunswick. The Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat and the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour developed the 14-week Archaeological Field Technician – Level 1 training program to advance the archaeological program. This program was developed as a direct result of Aboriginal engagement on archaeological issues arising from potential natural resources development projects. This program speaks to innovation in New Brunswick and the desire to work with First Nations in New Brunswick.

Fiscal responsibility

Objective of the measure

Meet or underspend expense budget.

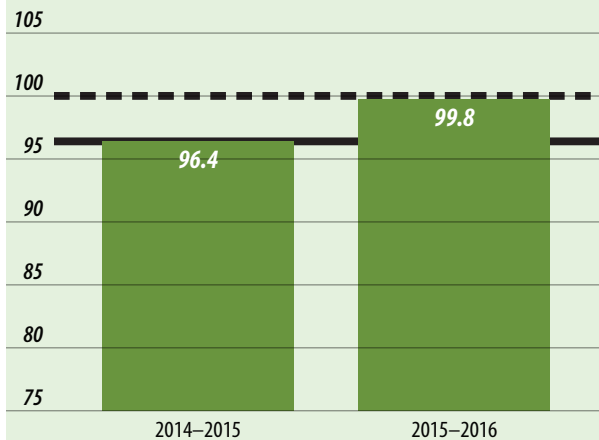
Measure

Ratio of actual to Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat budgeted expenditures.

Description of measure

The ratio measures whether the department is over or under budget. The ratio will exceed 100 per cent when spending is over-budget and be less than 100 percent when spending is under-budget.

Per cent of actual to budgeted expenditures



Overall performance

The Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat's 2015-2016 budget was set at \$1,412,444. After close monitoring of expenditures, the secretariat closed out the fiscal year \$1,747 under-budget.

————— **Baseline:** 96.4%
- - - - - **Target:** 100%
 Actual: 99.8%

Why do we measure this?

This indicator measures the ability of the secretariat to manage its overall expenses as compared to budget. The secretariat must ensure that expenses are managed in accordance with the budget and be prepared to take corrective action if expenses are projected to be over-budget during the year.

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

The secretariat closely monitored expenses.

Smarter government

Objective of the measure

Focus funding on priorities.

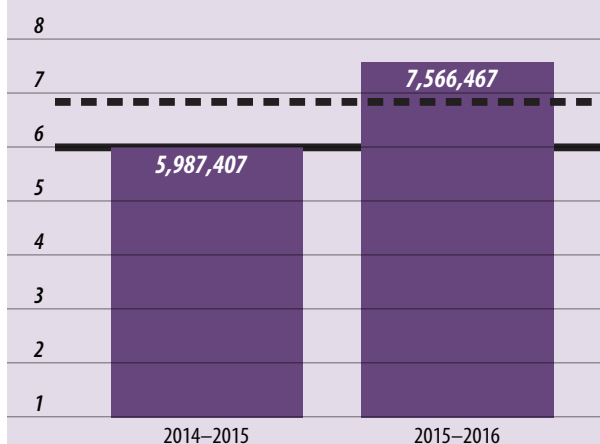
Measure

Dollars reinvested in First Nations education.

Description of measure

Tuition amount reinvested to support the provision of programs and services to enhance the educational experience of First Nation students. The amount is calculated by the number of First Nation students in public schools multiplied by the cost of tuition per student, divided by two. ($1,356 \times \$11,074/2 =$ tuition amount reinvested).

Investments in First Nations education (\$ M)



Overall performance

During 2015–2016, the secretariat in collaboration with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development negotiated and signed a new five-year Enhanced First Nation Education Programs and Services Agreement with each First Nation. These agreements allowed for the continuation of funds to be reinvested in First Nation education. The target was met and exceeded.

	Baseline: \$5,987,407 reinvested in 2014–2015
	Target: \$7,508,172 reinvested in 2015–2016
	Actual: \$7,566,466 reinvested in 2015–2016

Why do we measure this?

First Nation education is a key priority of government. A shared priority of all partners is closing the gap in educational outcomes between First Nation students and their non-First Nation peers in public schools. The goals are to ensure a quality education creating greater opportunity for all First Nation learners and to ensure that the federal government continues to provide adequate tuition funding/resources to support innovations and initiatives in education.

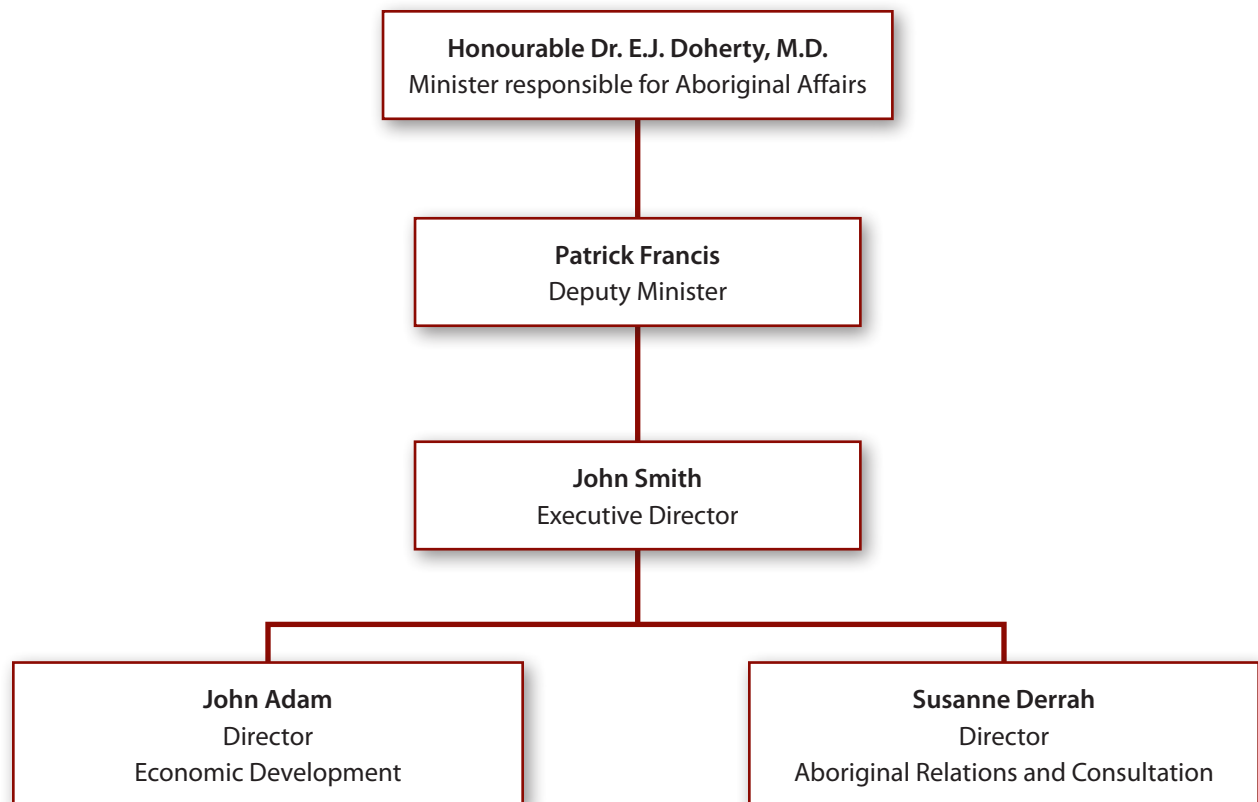
What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

A new five-year Enhanced First Nations Education Programs and Services Agreement was negotiated and signed by each First Nation to close the achievement gap between First Nation and non-First Nation students.

Overview of organizational operations

The Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat works with Aboriginal people, other levels of government, industry and other parties to promote social and economic opportunities and reconcile their rights and interests.

High-level organizational chart



Division overview and highlights

Aboriginal Relations and Consultation Branch

The **Aboriginal Relations and Consultation Branch** provides expertise in the areas of consultation and strategic negotiations.

The branch is responsible for:

- developing and implementing policies and procedures;
- maintaining an ongoing and productive dialogue between government and First Nations;
- fostering relationships based on good faith, equity, transparency, openness, trust and respect;
- leading a coordinated government approach to a wide range of Aboriginal issues;
- ensuring that consultation occurs on behalf of the Crown;
- providing technical support and direction to government; and
- working with government, First Nations, Aboriginal organizations, business and other decision-makers to develop a pan-government approach for Aboriginal and treaty rights.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ♦ *Provided consultation, advice and guidance on a number of resource development files. Staff provides information and advice on the degree of infringement on Aboriginal and treaty rights in regard to each Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as well as for proposals that do not require EIA review. The branch is a member of the Technical Review Committee under the EIA process. Twenty-three (23) EIA registrations were received in 2015–2016. The secretariat provided input on 18 projects, some of which were registered in previous years.*
- ♦ *Organized several information sessions for various provincial employees in regard to “Duty to Consult,” presented by Lynn Beak, BA, LLB. These sessions, held in Fredericton in September 2015, were intended to provide deputy ministers as well as for a broad range of GNB employees with an operational perspective of the Duty to Consult in the context of government decision-making processes and focussed on the risks and benefits of relationship building and consultation. Lynn Beak also led several workshops with practitioners to provide advice and lead the discussion on a broad range of operation aspects of the Duty To Consult; assisted in the development of the strength of claim analysis for asserted Aboriginal rights and title and the nature of treaty rights in New Brunswick; and drew on past experience and current court decisions to provide practitioners with best practices.*
- ♦ *Facilitated a two-day federal training course on Duty to Consult – the legal framework offered by the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), held in Fredericton in October 2015.*
- ♦ *Organized a follow-up one-day training session, in Fredericton in March 2016, that provided GNB employees with a deeper operational perspective on the Duty to Consult in the context of the government decision-making process.*
- ♦ *In collaboration with the Department of Energy and Mines, assisted with the facilitation of a First Nations program within the Mining and Petroleum Conference, held in Fredericton in November 2015. This conference was an excellent opportunity to meet to discuss current exploration and development activities as well as share views on how to further improve future mineral and petroleum resource exploration and development in New Brunswick.*
- ♦ *Provided the Woodstock First Nation \$15,000 toward the New Brunswick Indian Summer Games.*
- ♦ *Provided the Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick organization \$55,000 toward the 2017 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG).*
- ♦ *In collaboration with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, negotiated and signed a new five-year Enhanced First Nation Education Programs and Services Agreement with all First Nations.*

Economic Development Branch

The **Economic Development Branch** provides guidance, advice and direction in relation to projects and initiatives in the key results areas for education, economic development and social development.

The branch is responsible for:

- negotiating and managing agreements and projects;
- facilitating the bilateral and tripartite process;
- fostering working relationships and partnerships with Aboriginal communities and organizations; and
- promoting social and economic development to increase self-reliance of First Nations communities.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ♦ *Supported the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG), composed of provincial and territorial Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs and National Aboriginal Organization (NAO) leaders, who met in Yellowknife on May 12, 2015 to review progress and explore future opportunities to be advanced in the priority areas of education, economic development, housing, ending violence against Aboriginal women and girls, disaster mitigation and emergency management in Aboriginal communities. Ministers and NAO leaders discussed the outcomes of the first National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and called on the federal government to join in the development and execution of a prevention and awareness campaign aimed at ending violence against Aboriginal women and girls; discussed and directed continued work for the development of a socio-economic action plan for Aboriginal women; discussed the disproportionate number of Aboriginal children in care and recognized the important work being done by the premier's working group on Aboriginal children in care; and endorsed continued co-operation to advance activities aimed at supporting First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and reiterated the need for federal partnership with the AAWG to address the challenges faced by Aboriginal peoples in Canada.*
- ♦ *Leading on several provincial/territorial/national Aboriginal Organization forums (Aboriginal Children in Care/Economic Development/Housing)*
- ♦ *Continued to be part of the AAWG committee and played a lead role as co-chair of the Economic Development subcommittee and as co-chair on the Housing subcommittee.*
- ♦ *Led the New Brunswick delegation of Aboriginal women leaders, family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls from New Brunswick First Nations and government officials to Winnipeg, Man., for the second National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, held Feb. 24–26, 2016. The national roundtables are the result of an August 2014 commitment by the NAO leaders and the premiers to engage in focused discussion to reach targeted outcomes to address and prevent violence against Aboriginal women and girls. The roundtable focused on prevention and awareness; community safety; and policing measures and justice responses, and builds on commitments of the 2015 roundtable held in Ottawa. Violence against Aboriginal women and girls impact Aboriginal communities and families throughout New Brunswick. GNB was pleased to work together to create conditions to enhance the quality of life for Aboriginal women and girls in New Brunswick as well as across the country.*
- ♦ *Supported the premiers and NAO leader meeting, held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL, in July 2015. Premiers and NAO leaders engaged in productive discussions on the work of the AAWG in the five task group areas of education, economic development, ending violence against Aboriginal women and girls, housing, and disaster mitigation. Premiers and NAO leaders highlighted the completion of the Socio-Economic Action Plan for Aboriginal Women and requested that this work be a priority for the AAWG. Premiers and NAO leaders were pleased to receive the report on Aboriginal Children in Care, which identified promising practices to reduce the number of children in care and improve outcomes for children receiving care.*

- ◆ *Supported the Joint Economic Development Initiatives Inc. (JEDI Inc.) with the planning, organizing and facilitating of the Aboriginal Economic Growth Opportunities Summit, one of the Job Boards Secretariat's opportunities summits in partnership with Opportunities New Brunswick. This summit was held in Miramichi in December 2015 and focused on the Aboriginal economic development opportunities and challenges in New Brunswick. Participants included Aboriginal entrepreneurs, economic development officers and education training officers from the First Nation communities, members of First Nation communities, representatives from the off-reserve communities, and government officials.*

 - ◆ *Provided the Esgenoôpetitj First Nation \$21,000 toward the creation of a business plan for wild blueberry development.*

 - ◆ *Provided the Oromocto First Nation \$5,000 toward the development of a business plan for the manufacturing of lobster traps.*

 - ◆ *Provided the Eel River Bar First Nation \$25,000 for an infrastructure design plan.*

 - ◆ *Provided the Esgenoôpetitj First Nation \$15,000 toward a land survey for the advancement of the wild blueberry industry.*
-

Financial overview

Ordinary Budget Expenditures cover the day-to-day operations of the Secretariat.

Department Expenditure Status report by program / primary Fiscal year ending March 31, 2016		
	Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)
Personal services	1 009 544	969 150
Other services	125 800	283 009
Material and supplies	11 600	5 548
Property and equipment	15 500	2 714
Contributions, grants and subsidies	250 000	150 276
TOTAL	1 412 444	1 410 697

The secretariat was under-budget by \$1747 as a result of savings in the wage bill.

Regional Development Corporation (RDC) – Aboriginal Affairs Initiatives Fund includes additional funds above the secretariat’s budget, accessed for developmental initiatives and processed through the secretariat’s accounting system.

RDC – Aboriginal Affairs Initiatives Fund Status report by program / primary Fiscal year ending March 31, 2016		
	Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)
Contributions, grants and subsidies	1 884 000	1 878 394
TOTAL	1 884 000	1 878 394

Summary of staffing activity

Pursuant to section 4 of the *Civil Service Act*, the Deputy Minister of the Department of Human Resources delegates staffing to each Deputy Head for his or her respective departments. Please find below a summary of the staffing activity for 2015–2016 for the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat.

Number of permanent and temporary employees, as of December 31 of each year		
Employee type	2015	2014
Permanent	14	12
Temporary	0	3
TOTAL	14	15

The department did not advertise any competitions.

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

Appointment type	Appointment description	Section of the <i>Civil Service Act</i>	Number
Specialized Professional, Scientific or Technical	An appointment may be made without competition when a position requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a high degree of expertise and training – a high degree of technical skill – recognized experts in their field 	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)	0
Lateral transfer	The GNB transfer process facilitates the transfer of employees from within Part 1, 2 (school boards) and 3 (hospital corporations) of the Public Service.	16(1) or 16(1)(c)	1
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)	2
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 Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat and no complaints were submitted to the Ombudsman.

Summary of legislation and legislative activity

The Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat did not have any legislative activity.

Summary of Official Languages activities

The secretariat is committed to actively offering and providing quality services in the public's Official Language of choice. As a result of the development of an Official Languages plan, the secretariat has several initiatives in place that promote Official Languages in the workplace, including encouraging its staff to work in their Official Language of choice; providing opportunities for employees to develop and maintain their second language capabilities; and ensuring that clients receive service in one of the Official Languages of their choice.

In 2015–2016, two employees participated in second-language training. The secretariat continued to provide tools for employees who had already participated in second-language training so they could preserve their second-language skills.

Summary of recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General

Name and year of audit area	Recommendations	
	Total	Adopted
The 2013 Auditor General's Report – Vol. 2. Collection of Accounts Receivable http://www.gnb.ca/oag-bvg/2013v2/2013v2-E.ASP	1	1

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. The Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat did not receive any disclosure(s) of wrongdoings in the 2015–2016 fiscal year.

Appendix

First Nations in New Brunswick

New Brunswick is home to two distinct indigenous cultures — the Mi'kmaq (meaning “the family”) and the Wolastoqiyik (meaning “people of the beautiful river”) peoples, also known as the Maliseet. There are nine Mi'kmaq communities along the eastern and northern coasts, and six Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) communities along the St. John River, totalling 15 First Nation communities with 27 reserve locations across the province. Each First Nation community is governed by an elected chief and council.

According to Indigenous and Northern Development Canada's Indian Registry System, as of Dec. 31, 2015, 15,506¹ First Nations people lived in New Brunswick, both on- and off-reserve (See Table 2). However, based on the 2011 census, it is estimated that there are 22,620² Aboriginals (Aboriginal identity) living in New Brunswick. “Aboriginal identity” includes persons who reported being an Aboriginal person (First Nations [North American Indian], Métis or Inuk [Inuit]) and/or those who reported Registered or Treaty Indian status (registered under the *Indian Act of Canada*, and/or those who reported membership in a First Nation or Indian band). Aboriginal peoples of Canada are defined in the *Constitution Act*, 1982, section 35 (2) as including the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.

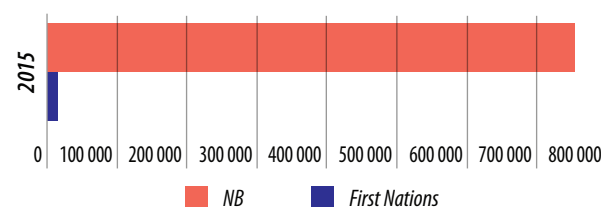
New Brunswick's total population in 2015 was 753,900³, meaning that First Nations accounted for two per cent. Even though this may seem a small percentage, the First Nations population has a much higher population growth of 10.55 per cent compared to the 2.9 per cent for New Brunswick overall (See Table 5).

Again, based on the 2011 census, in New Brunswick, as in the rest of Canada, the Aboriginal population is also much younger than the rest of the population. The median age of the First Nation population in New Brunswick is 28 compared to 44 for the population as a whole.⁴

Table 1: New Brunswick and First Nations population, 2015

New Brunswick population	First Nations population
753 900	15 506

Figure 1: New Brunswick and First Nations population, 2015



1 NAC's Indian Registry System as of Dec. 31, 2015
2 Statistics Canada. 2013. *New Brunswick (Code 13) (table). National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-004-XWE. Ottawa. Released Sept. 11, 2013.

3 <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/demo02a-eng.htm>.
4 Statistics Canada, *National Household Survey*, 2011.

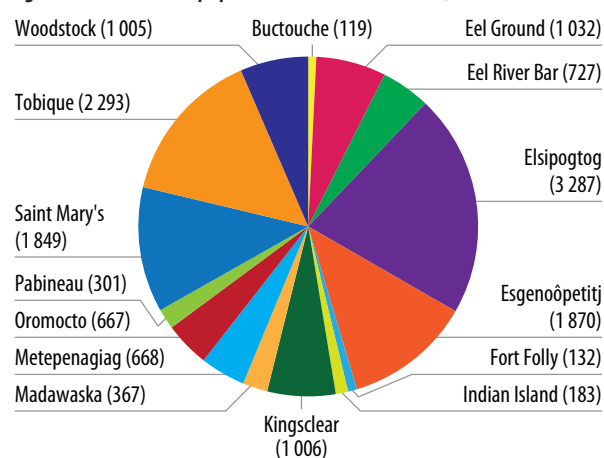
Table 2: First Nations total population in New Brunswick, 2015⁵

	Total	On-reserve	Off-reserve
New Brunswick	15 506	9 501	6 005
Buctouche	119	76	43
Eel Ground	1 032	585	447
Eel River Bar	727	359	368
Elsipogtog	3 287	2 566	721
Esgenoôpetitj	1 870	1 353	517
Fort Folly	132	36	96
Indian Island	183	104	79
Kingsclear	1 006	706	300
Madawaska	367	153	214
Metepenagiag	668	457	211
Oromocto	667	313	354
Pabineau	301	102	199
Saint Mary's	1 849	883	966
Tobique	2 293	1 517	776
Woodstock	1 005	291	714

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

- 1) They contain no information on any Non-registered individuals who may be living on reserve, and
- 2) Similarly, they contain no information on any members registered to other bands who may be living on reserve.

Figure 2: First Nations population in New Brunswick, 2015

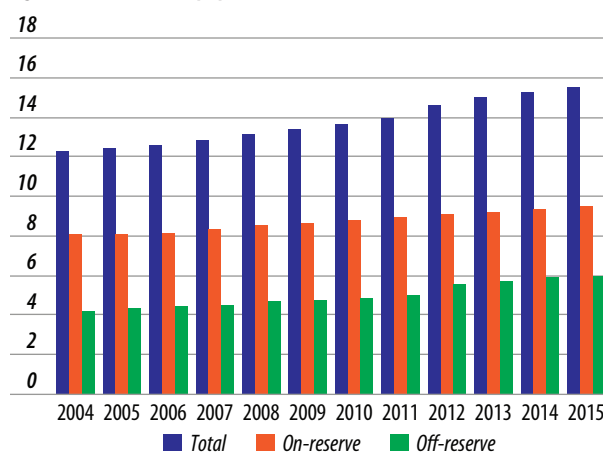


5 INAC's Indian Registry System as of Dec. 31, 2015.

Table 3: First Nations population in New Brunswick⁶ (2004–2015)

Year	Total	On-reserve	Off-reserve
2004	12 247	8 058	4 189
2005	12 434	8 087	4 347
2006	12 616	8 138	4 478
2007	12 868	8 325	4 543
2008	13 175	8 527	4 648
2009	13 366	8 632	4 734
2010	13 626	8 795	4 831
2011	13 948	8 931	5 017
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

Figure 3: First Nations population in NB, 2004–2015 (x 000)



6 INAC's Indian Registry System.

Table 4: New Brunswick⁷ and First Nations⁸ population (2011–2015)

Year	New Brunswick	First Nations in New Brunswick
2011	755 500	13 948
2012	756 800	14 649
2013	755 700	14 978
2014	754 600	15 249
2015	753 900	15 506

Figure 4A: New Brunswick population (x 000)

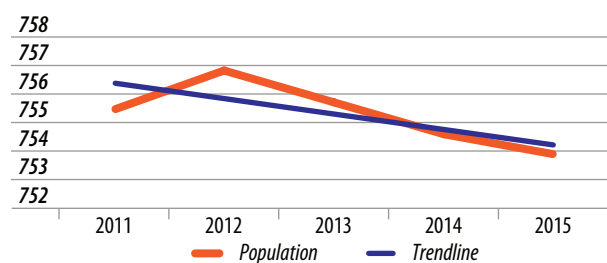


Figure 4B: First Nations population in New Brunswick (x 000)

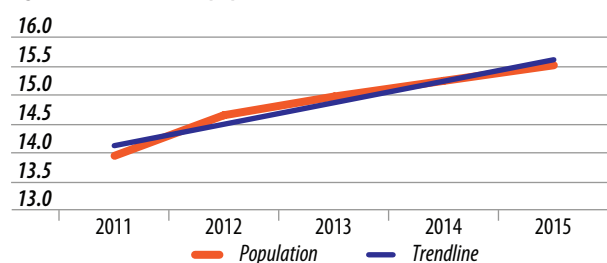
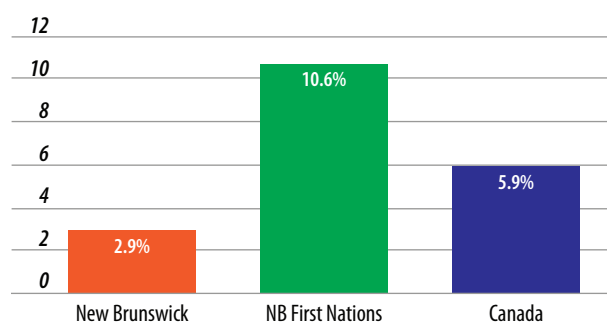


Table 5: Population growth⁹

Year	New Brunswick	First Nations in NB	Canada
2006	729 997	12 616	31 612 897
2011	751 171	13 948	33 476 688
Population growth rate	2.9%	10.55%	5.9%

Figure 5: Population growth rate (percentage, 2006–2011)



7 Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table 051-0001.

8 INAC's Indian Registry System.

9 Statistics Canada, Focus on Geography Series, 2011 Census.

First Nations funding

Joint Economic Development Initiative Inc. (JEDI Inc.)

The Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat continues to support the Joint Economic Development Initiative Inc. (JEDI Inc.), established in 1995 as a tripartite agreement to coordinate the economic development opportunities for the Aboriginal peoples in New Brunswick. JEDI Inc. has evolved over the years and today is an independent incorporated entity and is administered by a board of directors. GNB's financial commitment to this initiative is \$105,000 annually.

The focus of JEDI Inc. is practical, results-oriented undertakings using existing and future programs and services. This includes initiatives in the areas of entrepreneurship funding and business development in various industry sectors. JEDI Inc. is working to increase employment and income for all Aboriginals in New Brunswick.

Assembly of First Nations Chiefs in New Brunswick Inc. (AFNCNB)

The secretariat continued to support the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs in New Brunswick Inc. (AFNCNB), a political organization incorporated in 2008 that promotes all chiefs having an equal voice, up until it was dissolved as a result of the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet Chiefs decision to pursue their interests separately going forward. The Government of New Brunswick was notified in December 2015 that the assembly would be dissolved and that a new group representing the nine Mi'kmaq First Nations would be established in the new year. The new organization is the Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Inc. (MTI).

In 2015–2016, GNB's financial commitment to the assembly was \$650,000.

Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) First Nations resource development consultation coordinators

The secretariat in collaboration with the Department of Energy and Mines and the Department of Natural Resources provided each Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) community \$50,000 as GNB's five-year financial commitment toward the establishment of a First Nations resource development consultation coordinator. Each coordinator would provide input and guidance to the chief and

council, government officials and resource development representatives on consultation matters relevant to issues affecting land and natural resources.

In 2015–2016, GNB’s financial commitment to the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) First Nations was \$300,000.

First Nations agreements

GNB provided First Nations with several programs and services

Under the **Department of Finance**, there are several revenue-sharing agreements between GNB and the First Nations. Under section 11.1 of the *Revenue Administration Act* and section 24 of the *Gaming Control Act*, the Minister of Finance is authorized to enter into agreements with First Nations respecting the sharing of on-reserve tax and gaming revenues. These agreements return vital funding to the communities and are designed to foster economic development and provide the means for bands to provide important social programs for community members.

There are three types of revenue-sharing agreements in New Brunswick:

- 1. Joint tax/gaming agreements** — Between 1994 and 2001, GNB signed seven agreements with First Nations respecting the sharing of tax and gaming revenues collected on reserves. These agreements do not have an expiration date but may be terminated with 90 days’ written notice by either party. Under these agreements, 95 per cent of provincial HST, tobacco and gasoline and motive fuel tax revenues collected by retailers from on-reserve sales to non-natives are returned to the band. In addition, where a First Nation gaming commission has been established by the band, 95 per cent of the net profit from VLTs on reserve and 100 per cent of break-open tickets sales profits on tickets sold by the band are returned to the band. Bands with this type of agreement are Esgenoôpetitj, Fort Folly, Kingsclear, Madawaska, Oromocto, Saint Mary’s and Woodstock.
- 2. Stand-alone tax agreements** — Beginning in September 2007, First Nations that did not have a joint tax/gaming agreement were offered the opportunity to enter into a stand-alone tax sharing agreement. These agreements are similar to the Joint Tax/Gaming Agreements with the exception of an additional

clause which specifically excludes International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) tax revenue collected but not retained by the province from the sharing provisions of the agreement. GNB signed six agreements with First Nations respecting the sharing of tax revenues collected on reserves. Bands with this type of agreement are Buctouche, Eel Ground, Eel River Bar First Nation, Metepenagiag, Pabineau and Tobique.

- 3. Stand-alone gaming agreements** — Beginning in 2003, GNB signed two agreements with First Nations. These agreements provided the same sharing of VLT revenues as found in the Joint Tax/Gaming Agreements with the option to share break-open ticket sale revenue in the same manner as found in the Joint Tax / Gaming Agreements. Bands with this type of agreement are Elsipogtog and Eel River Bar.

GNB, led by the Department of Finance, continues to review these agreements and leads the collaborative dialogue with First Nations in a respectful manner to achieve and develop a new path moving forward.

Table 6: First Nations revenue-sharing agreements¹⁰ (\$)

First Nations	2013–2014	2014–2015	2015–2016
Buctouche	196 995	199 737	172 221
Eel Ground	323 490	192 409	214 600
Eel River	2 007 173	3 116 968	2 387 636
Elsipogtog	1 118 215	781.647	883 012
Esgenoôpetitj	714 880	780.211	726 854
Fort Folly	30 053	104 927	299 838
Indian Island	0	0	0
Kingsclear	1 327 167	1 595 526	1 756 924
Madawaska	8 388 229	9 388 136	15 228 544
Metepenagiag	203 318	236 530	280 698
Oromocto	2 942 619	2 550 587	2 574 646
Pabineau	575 494	497 706	415 575
Saint Mary’s	13 538 989	13 290 738	13 890 865
Tobique	48 052	25 573	106 322
Woodstock	3 835 209	3 581 029	4 815 002
Total	35 276 853	36 340 724	43 752 738

¹⁰ Department of Finance.

Under the **Department of Public Safety**, there is a framework agreement between GNB and the Government of Canada to provide policing services to all First Nation communities. Most First Nations fall under the Provincial Police Service Agreement, a 20-year agreement signed in 2012. Under this agreement, First Nations are policed by a pool of RCMP members shared among the other communities and local service districts (LSDs) in their area. Elsipogtog and Tobique both signed an agreement between GNB, the Government of Canada for the RCMP First Nations Community policing service, which provides each community with its own members and support staff. Saint Mary's signed an agreement between GNB, the Government of Canada and the City of Fredericton for the Fredericton City Police Force for policing service.

The Department of Public Safety is reviewing the concept of a new Aboriginal community program officer program. This program is being explored because of a decision to end the federally funded First Nation Band Constable Program. The role of an Aboriginal community program officer would be to implement community-based programs, proactive initiatives and strategies that contribute to the prevention and reduction of crime through education, interventions and sustainable community engagement.

Table 7: First Nations policing service¹¹ (\$)

Fiscal year	RCMP	RCMP First Nation community	City of Fredericton	Total
2012–2013	3 391 000	1 581 000	296 448	5 268 448
2013–2014	3 522 106	1 550 000	228 848	5 300 954
2014–2015	3 505 000	1 471 000	232 000	5 208 000
2015–2016	3 799 018	1 373 327	235 144	5 407 489

11 Department of Public Safety.

Under the **Department of Natural Resources**, there are First Nation commercial harvesting agreements. These agreements have been in place since 1998 and are not linked to Aboriginal and treaty rights but are intended to provide access to Crown timber to generate employment and economic development opportunities for First Nation communities. Under these agreements, five per cent of the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) on provincial Crown land is allocated to First Nations; and specific allocations are distributed among all bands on the basis of population. These agreements also specify the volume of softwood and hardwood allocated to each band. Each First Nation community has signed an agreement and, through its chief and council manages these resources in the manner that most effectively meets its economic development goals.

The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for managing these agreements; it received royalties collected on behalf of each First Nation from the mill purchasing the wood and returns this money to each band, usually on a monthly basis.

Table 8: First Nations timber royalties¹² (\$)

First Nations	2013–2014	2014–2015	2015–2016
Buctouche	13 552	21 416	23 024
Eel Ground	192 690	215 958	283 416
Eel River	93 966	124 195	164 258
Elsipogtog	431 096	811 985	744 994
Esgenoôpetitj	249 969	370 535	390 404
Fort Folly	30 387	0	25 514
Indian Island	25 073	30 337	44 445
Kingsclear	160 826	224 518	223 759
Madawaska	54 462	77 591	84 688
Metepenagiag	132 381	160 019	179 861
Oromocto	96 561	122 061	253 606
Pabineau	52 538	61 327	73 580
Saint Mary's	255 387	281 117	384 955
Tobique	391 833	567 842	595 270
Woodstock	165 483	216 407	241 637
Total	2 346 204	3 285 307	3 713 361

12 Department of Natural Resources.

Under the **Department of Education and Early Childhood Development**, there are Enhanced First Nations Education Programs and Services Agreements with all 15 First Nations in New Brunswick plus Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation in Quebec. These five-year agreements are intended to eliminate the tuition gap between the federally funded tuition amounts and the provincial tuition rates. Under these agreements, once a First Nation remits a tuition payment to GNB, 50 per cent of the total received is reinvested in First Nation students' education. A First Nation district education committee with representatives from the First Nation and school districts considers investment proposals for personnel, programs and services ranging from Aboriginal language learning opportunities, transition projects and more.

In 2015–2016, all 16 First Nations signed the new five-year enhanced agreements.

In New Brunswick as of September 2015, there were 97,912 students in public school in which 1,356 were First Nation students living on-reserve. Tuition for First Nation students is paid by the federal government under Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. For 2015, cost of tuition for each First Nation student in the public school system is \$11,074 per year. Tuition is paid to GNB in two ways: it is paid directly by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada on behalf of the band to GNB; and secondly, it is paid by the band to GNB.

There are seven federally funded band operated schools, which are from kindergarten to Grade 8 (See Table 9 below) in New Brunswick. As of September 2015, there were more than 700 students in band operated schools.

Table 9: First Nation band operated schools

First Nation	Grades
Eel Ground	K – 8
Elsipogtog	K – 8
Esgenoôpetitj	K – 8
Kingsclear	K – 5
Metepenagiag	K – 6
Saint Mary's	K – 5
Tobique	K – 6

Table 10 – First Nations enhanced reinvestment fund¹³ (\$)

First Nations	2013–2014	2014–2015	2015–2016
Buctouche	164 049	37 324	194 040
Eel Ground	365 545	323 057	185 790
Eel River	915 178	9 677	511 352
Elsipogtog	1 252 432	1 266 610	1 250 906
Esgenoôpetitj	0 *	0 *	2 003 020
Fort Folly	41 492	34 546	23 202
Indian Island	108 445	92 400	339 557
Kingsclear	531 510	619 100	558 637
Madawaska	300 545	(168 619)**	135 321
Metepenagiag	289 536	264 115	176 538
Oromocto	259 880	353 931	792 134
Pabineau	190 040	197 846	117 252
Saint Mary's	727 791	507 419	1 266 147
Tobique	829 350	1 357 232	796 664
Woodstock	263 725	521 567	488 509
Listuguj (PQ)	699 661	571 203	1 159 079
Total	6 939 151	5 987 407	9 998 147***

* No funds were reinvested as the band had not yet signed an enhanced agreement extension.

** Adjustment for prior year's duplicate re-investment amount.

*** Adjustment for prior year's investment amount.

13 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Special projects

Tobique First Nation Riverbank Stabilization Project

In 2013–2014, an agreement was reached to extend the Riverbank Stabilization Project and restore an additional 1,220-metre section of riverbank on the east bank of the St. John River. This project was to be completed in stages. Stage 1 was the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Archeological Study reports, which has been completed, and Stage 2 was the construction phase, which started in 2014–2015 and will be completed in 2016–2017.

In 2015–2016, using a Community First Approach, Tobique was successful in completing the stabilization of about 450 metres of riverbank. The Community First Approach focused on training and employing First Nations people to complete a substantial portion of the project in a sustainable manner. Where tasks requiring further expertise were encountered, the project proponent adapted a Community First Approach and used local resources. This augmented the socio-economic impact by supporting individuals and companies that support Tobique businesses and institutions. Funding of \$984,000 was provided to assist with the cost associated with completing Year 2 of a three-year project.

New Brunswick Indian Summer Games — Woodstock First Nation

The 2015 New Brunswick Indian Summer Games were awarded to Woodstock First Nation through a bid process by the New Brunswick Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Authority. The New Brunswick Indian Summer games were held from July 27 to July 31st. Hundreds of First Nations youth, aged five to 19, from Eel Ground, Eel River Bar, Elsipogtog, Esgenoôpetitj, Kingsclear, Metepenagiag, Saint Mary's, Tobique and Woodstock participated. They competed in many sports including ball hockey, baseball, basketball, t-ball, soccer, volleyball, archery, track-n-field, canoeing, golf, badminton and swimming. This was the sixth year of the summer games following a 24-year hiatus. GNB provided \$15,000 to assist Woodstock First Nation host this event.

Joint Economic Development Initiative Inc. (JEDI) — AAWG website

The secretariat continued to work in partnership with the Joint Economic Development Initiative Inc. (JEDI) and the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG) in maintaining the AAWG website. This website celebrates, promotes and shares the accomplishments and proven advancements in Aboriginal economic development. The website also provides useful information and issues affecting Aboriginal economic development. GNB provided \$12,500 to continue to monitor and populate the website based on the direction of the working group.

First Nations training strategy for the mining sector

The secretariat in partnership with the Department of Energy and Mines retained the services of Aboriginal Resource Consultants (ARC) to coordinate and facilitate a two-day meeting between First Nation leaders, mining industry leaders and government representatives to discuss a First Nations training strategy for the mining sector; and to develop and lead a First Nations program to be included as part of the Department of Energy and Mines annual Exploration, Mining and Petroleum Conference, held in November 2015.

Esgenoôpetitj First Nation — Wild Blueberry production

In collaboration with several departments, the secretariat supported Esgenoôpetitj in the development of its wild blueberry harvesting initiative. GNB invested \$284,000 in the development of a business plan, a land survey and the completion of a bridge, which would allow the community to develop 249 hectares (600 acres) of reserve land. Esgenoôpetitj has a strategic competitive advantage and a perfect opportunity to partner in expanding the industry, creating jobs and supporting families in the community. This partnership demonstrated the positive relationships being fostered among industry, government and First Nations.

Map of Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) First Nations in New Brunswick

