Self-Governance Workshop # 2 Education
Se’t Kina’matino’kuom
... To provide education for all band members from Junior-Kindergarten to Elders with a staff dedicated not only to academic excellence and life skills but also to the cultural and spiritual teaching of the Mi'kmaq people.
History

St. A’newey was a provincial school until 1986. In 1986 it became a band controlled school.
IMPLICATIONS

Band Control meant:

- Determine our own needs
- Design our own educational policy
- Hire our own teachers
- Decide our own curriculum
WE DECIDED TO:

- 1. Offer core provincial curriculum along with a Mi’kmaq curriculum
- 2. Give preference to qualified band members
Partnerships

This meant we had to:

- Work with the Department of Education
- Work with the Newfoundland Teachers Association
- Work with the Association of Education Directors
- Work with other provincial School Boards
FUNDING

The main source of our funding is DIAND

1. We present a budget to council
2. They approve or ask for revision
3. When approved the Band’s Finance Office deposits the required amount to our account
FUNDING

Other Sources:

- Gathering Strength - administered by DIAND and accessed through proposal request
- AFN Language Initiative - administered by Mi’kmaq Education Authority in Nova Scotia and accessed through proposal request
- Co-op and Computer Programs - administered by DIAND and accessed through proposal request
- MHR - for adult education - administered by the Band and accessed through proposal request.
• Note: Gathering Strength And AFN Language Initiative monies all go to the operation of our Mi’kmaq Culture and Language Center
Staff (Administration)

- Director
- Assistant Director (Business Manager)
- High School Principal (Grade 7 - 12)
- Low School Principal (Grade Jr.K - 6)
- Secretary
- Band Members ...5/5
Staff (Teaching)

- Highschool ..... 9 ½ for 110 students
- Low School .... 9 ½ for 70 students
- Band Members ...11/18
Staff (Mi’kmaq Language & Culture)

- Co-ordinator
- Two teachers
- Band Members ... 3/3
Staff (Technology)

- Teacher/Manager ..... 1
Staff (Support)

- Librarian ..... 1
- Student Assistants ..... 9 (7 ½ in low school)
- Band Members ..... 10/10

- Note: All student assistants are assigned one on one to students with severe learning or physical disabilities
Staff (Maintainance)

- Maintenance ....... 1 (40-hr. weeks)
- Cleaning ............. 2 (28 hr. Weeks)
- Band Members .... 3/3
Resources

Our funding makes us one of the best resourced schools in the province:

- Pupil-teacher ratio of 9 -1
- A good school program
- A good Adult Education Program
- A post-secondary program
- A Mi’kmaq Language Revival Program
- Sufficiency classroom resources
- Well stocked general library
RESOURCES (con’t)

- A First Nations Resource Center
- A computerized and networked school
- A computer lab
- Unlimited Internet Access
- A Fully Equipped Industrial Arts Room
- A Fully Equipped Home Economic Room
- A Van
Framework

At present we are operating within the following parameters:

- School Operations - Our own Educational Policies and Guidelines
- Teachers - Newfoundland Teachers Collective Agreements
- Non-teaching staff - Band's Personnel Policy
- Provincial Curriculum - Guidelines set by the province.
Accountability

- Educational: - Standardized test
  - Number of Dropouts
  - Number of graduates
  - Feedback from parents

- Financial: - Financial Monthly Printouts to the Band's Finance Office

- Employee: - Formal & informal evaluation
  - Monthly staff meetings

- Overall Operations: - Directors' Meetings
  - General Assembly Reports
Self- Governance

Actions

- An Education Act backed by legislation and which can be legally enforced
Self-Goverence

Opportunities

- Maintaining and enhancing the current educational system should guarantee continued improvement and advancement in the academic preparedness and skills training for life on and off reserve.
CONCERNS