The First Nations Peoples of this land governed their affairs for centuries. Their unique customs, languages, and way of life was intrinsically tied to the lands they occupied. It is not a story, not a fictitious tall tale, but historical fact.
Industry Interactions and Experiences:

“Past, Present and Future”
“First Nations peoples have had to deal with conditions of extreme poverty and isolation, and vast geographical dispersion, within the tremendous diversity of aboriginal cultures, languages, and political ideologies” (AFN 2000)

All First Nation’s people have had to endure centuries of discrimination, hardship and abandonment in the face of oppression resulting from the European conquest of what is now known as North America.

The strongest implication of European settlement has been on aboriginal health.
The Advisory Committee on Population Health (1999) report that:

- Aboriginals remain at higher risk for illness and early death than general Canadian population.
- Aboriginal people suffer from chronic diseases more so than the general Canadian population.
- The rates are rising in such diseases as diabetes and heart disease.
- Infant mortality rates are still twice as high in First Nation communities than in Canada as a whole.
- Suicide trends in the aboriginal population are two to seven time higher than the national average.
The Assembly of First Nations (1997) indicates that health determinants of aboriginal people are affected by:

1. Social-economic factors - employment, working conditions, income, education, social status
2. Social Factors – early childhood development, control over one's own life, level of support from others
3. Genetics - heredity (i.e. diabetics)
4. Lifestyle – nutrition, exercise, smoking, alcohol, etc.
5. Emotional and spiritual factors – stress, trauma, coping skills health care services

Similarly the National Forum on Health (1996) states that the main social-economic determinants of health are “income, social status, education, self-esteem, social networks and a sense of control over one’s life” (pg. 15).
Just Who Are Responsible for Aboriginal's

The Fed.'s

The provinces

or

The Aboriginal community.
The Fed.'s:

Constitution Act (1867) takes priority - Section 91(24), that indicates Federal responsibility for “Indians and Lands reserved for the Indians”

Although, the Federal government has been and continues to be responsible for "Indian’s", they assert they are not bound by terms of the Royal Proclamation of 1763, the treaties, the Constitution Act (1867), the Indian Act 1927, or the Constitution Act (1982) thus limiting the benefit of these treaties to what others/they/gov’t feel is necessary for First Nations (Speck 1993, pp. 191).
The Provinces

Although the Provincial government is territorial with respect to Indigenous people, they are rarely eager to claim financial responsibility (Scott, 1993).
The Aboriginal Community

First Nations’ long standing conflict with the Federal government for the right to provide their own government and right to self determination.

Today we the aboriginal community have greater involvement in the delivery of health care, community education and economic development that is sensitive to community needs. This is made possible largely due efficient reallocation of current funding strategies or through new funding agreements between the federal gov’t and aboriginal communities such as the Miawpukek First nation.
Assemble of First Nations

Program Delivery and Socio-Economic development
Miawpukek First Nation: First established as a community in the early 1800's

Official recognition of Reservation in mid 1800's

Official recognition as Reservation in 1984

Currently the only Federally recognized aboriginal community in NFLD.

Residential Reservation Name - Aosamiaji'ji Miawpukek Reserve - Too Small Reserve (14 Sq KM)

Isidore - Unofficial Town Historian and local paper editor,
Website - www.geocities.com/CapitolHill or miawpukek.nf.ca
m from the provincial Capital of St. John's
m from the nearest service center

On Statement
Preserve, Promote and Advance the Culture, Health,
Economic, Educational and Social Well-Being of our People
including Language, History and Spirituality

- Unofficial Town Historian and local paper editor,
  Site - www.geocities.com/CapitolHill or
  E-mail: minawpukek.nf.ca
Community choose pursuit

Primary funding to assist in
Infrastructure and economic
development

Emphasis on Social Welfare

Emphasis on education &
Training
Local Economic Transformation

GRAOME

Administration

Infrastructure & Economic Development

Education

Health and Social Services
Fully educated professional and technical staff are a feature of our force.

Administrative, Educational, Health and Social Services Staff are of aboriginal/community background.

A level of seasonal employment ~ 90% of community residence work from 12 weeks - a lifetime of work.
Since the incorporation of the Miawpukew 1st Nation in 1984 the Band has developed an aggressive Economic Development Department.

They have cultivated a highly educated professional and technical labour force.

They have developed and established a # of successful business enterprises ranging from primary forest harvesting (noe silvalculture), automotive repair hardware service/sales, commercial contracting outfitting, ecotourism, aviation, bars, crafts, agriculture, X-mas tree and fish farming.
The primary principal behind the Bands effort is achieve sustainable development.

Considering that we are a First Nation it is the belief of the community that all developments should mirror the general guiding principals of the aboriginal people.

- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Communality
- Close links to Nature
- Respect of the land and its creatures
- etc

Developments, economic or not must undergo an internal environmental assessment.

- Environmental cost/benefit
- Public consultation process (large efforts)
Thus, all development have an environmental impact. The key for the Miawpukek First Nation is to develop those projects that have the greatest benefit to the community while minimizing impact on the environment.

Until 1984 the majority of the community depended on natural resources of the land for survival, forestry, fishing, hunting and fishing, etc.

Our development strategy is closely tied to natural resources.

We wish to create meaningful employment, but maintain a sense of environmental closeness.