

Aboriginal Affairs

Annual Report
2014–2015

**Aboriginal Affairs
Annual Report 2014-2015**

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, 2014, to March 31, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Dr. E.J. Doherty
Minister

From the Deputy Minister to the Minister

Honourable Dr. 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 2014-2015.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Francis
Deputy Minister

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Minister's message

As the newly elected Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, I am proud of the positive relationship our government is building with First Nations in New Brunswick.

New Brunswick is home to 15 diverse and unique Mi'kmaq and Wolastokiyyik (Maliseet) communities. I have been given the opportunity to visit many of these communities and have had the pleasure of meeting with Chiefs throughout the province. We engaged in positive, productive dialogue and discussed issues of mutual interest. Direct communication is the best way to instill a new spirit of co-operation and identify the right path forward for our province. I want to work with the Chiefs to look for opportunities in areas of partnerships, negotiation and co-operation. As a government, we will continue to strengthen our relationship with First Nations through partnership and mutual respect.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, our government provided financial assistance to offer two training programs for First Nations through the Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (CCNB). The program was focused on educating students on the mining sector, and preparing them to work at the Trevali Mine near Bathurst upon completion of their degree. I attended the graduation ceremony for First Nations students who participated in the training program. All of these individuals are now working at the Trevali Caribou Mine.

It is important to highlight this initiative because it is a wonderful demonstration of the positive relationship being fostered between industry, First Nations and our government. My colleagues and I will continue to look for these opportunities and foster them every chance we are given.

I very much look forward to building on our relationship and working together with First Nations to move our province forward.



Honourable Dr. E.J. Doherty
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 2014-2015 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 Organization Committee that addresses issues affecting Aboriginal peoples in Canada. New Brunswick serves as co-lead on two 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 of violence against Aboriginal women and girls a priority. The work of the Interdepartmental Working Team on Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls is making a concerted effort to ensure that New Brunswick, in collaboration with First Nation leaders and grassroots organizations, are developing a New Brunswick plan to address the issue. In February 2015 New Brunswick participated in the National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Under the leadership of the Women's Equality Branch, we will continue to identify issues 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 Children in Care, Aboriginal women and economic development. We will continue to focus on these important issues.

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 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 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 that include:

- **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.
- **Fiscal responsibility:** Getting New Brunswick's fiscal house in order through a balanced approach to decrease costs and increase revenues.
- **Best place to raise a family:** Designing social programs to make life more affordable and make New Brunswick the best place to raise family.
- **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 2014-2015 fiscal year, the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat focused on these strategic priorities through:

Under the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat's Grants Program, which provides funding to First Nations communities, Aboriginal organizations and First Nation individuals for small-scale, non-profit projects/initiatives of a social, cultural and educational nature; the secretariat approved 26 grants, which range from \$250 to \$5,000 to fund social/cultural events such as Pow Wows and National Aboriginal Day celebrations; and education events such as National Aboriginal Science Camp.



Led a delegation of New Brunswick officials, which included Aboriginal leaders, women's advocates and government officials, to Ottawa for a National Roundtable on Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls in February 2015. This was the result of an August 2104 commitment by National Aboriginal Organizations and premiers to engage in focused discussion to reach targeted outcomes to address and prevent violence against Aboriginal women and girls.

Together with the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, invested \$136,000 in two training programs for 23 Aboriginal individuals at Traveli Mining Corp.'s Caribou mine near Bathurst, N.B.



Met with all 15 First Nations Chiefs and their representatives from across the province to look for opportunities in areas of partnerships, negotiation and co-operation to achieve GNB's goal of creating jobs, righting its fiscal ship and supporting all New Brunswick families.



Continued working in good faith, on a government-to-government basis, with the First Nation communities to resolve issues identified through the bilateral process.



In collaboration with the Regional Development Corporation, provided \$40,000 to Elsipogtog First Nation for upgrades to the Chief Young Eagle Recreation Centre, which benefits the entire region.



The secretariat provided \$2,000 to Tobique First Nation for the development of a new community centre.



The secretariat provided \$7,500 to the North Shore Micmac District Council toward its Seal Harvesting initiative, which has the potential of qualifying for about \$600,000 in federal funding.



The secretariat provided \$10,000 to the Buctouche First Nation for an economic development initiative.



The secretariat provided funding to Woodstock First Nation and Esgenoôpetitj First Nation for crisis management.



In collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and the Department of Environment and Local Government, the secretariat facilitated a relationship between Oxford Frozen Food and Esgenoôpetitj First Nation.

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 2014-2015.

More jobs	Measures
Support Aboriginal employment	Ratio of actual jobs to number of graduates under an Aboriginal mining course
Fiscal responsibility	Measures
Meet or underspend expense budget	Ratio of actual to budgeted expenditures
Smarter government	Measures
Focus funding on priorities	Dollars reinvested in First Nations education

More jobs

Objective of the measure

Support Aboriginal employment.

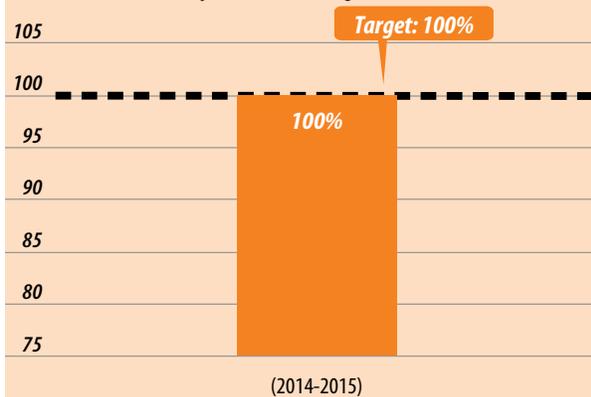
Measure

Ratio of number of jobs to number of graduates.

Description of measure

The measure shows the percentage of graduates who ended up with employment.

Ratio of number of jobs to number of graduates



Overall performance

Together with the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, invested \$136,000 in two training programs in the mining sector with the Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (CCNB), Bathurst campus, in association with Traveli Mining Corp.'s Caribou mine for 23 Aboriginal individuals. All 23 graduates now have employment at the mine, located near Bathurst, N.B.

Why do we measure this?

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

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

GNB invested \$136,000 in two training programs in the mining sector for 23 Aboriginal individuals at the Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick, Bathurst campus.

Fiscal responsibility

Objective of the measure

Meet or underspend expense budget.

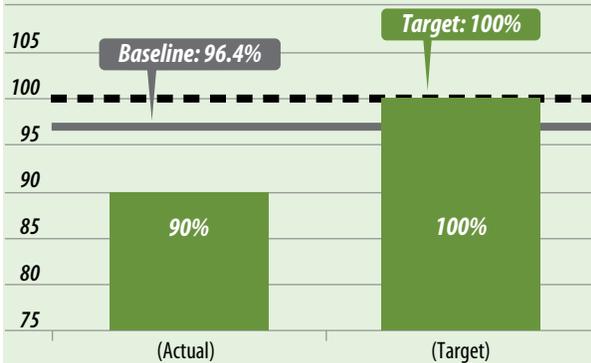
Measure

Ratio of actual to budgeted expenditures.

Description of measure

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

Ratio of actual to budgeted expenditures



Overall performance

The secretariat's 2014-2015 budget was set at \$1,395,000. After close monitoring of expenditures, the secretariat closed out the fiscal year at 10 per cent, or \$139,419, under-budget.

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 completed the following project:

- Ongoing monitor of expenses.

Smarter government

Objective of the measure

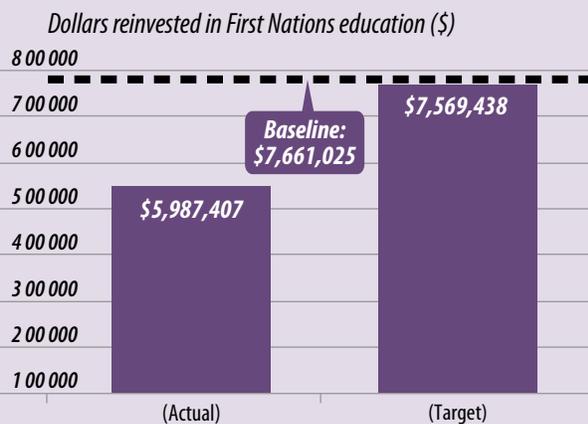
Focus funding on priorities

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 ($1405 \times \$10,775/2 =$ tuition amount reinvested).



Overall performance

During 2014-2015, the secretariat in collaboration with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development negotiated several Enhanced First Nation Education Programs and Services Agreement extensions. These extensions allowed for the continuation of funds to be reinvested in First Nation education. The target was not met since some band payments were delayed due to the timing of the signed agreement extension and because one band had not yet signed extension (See Appendix A, Table 9, for additional information).

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.

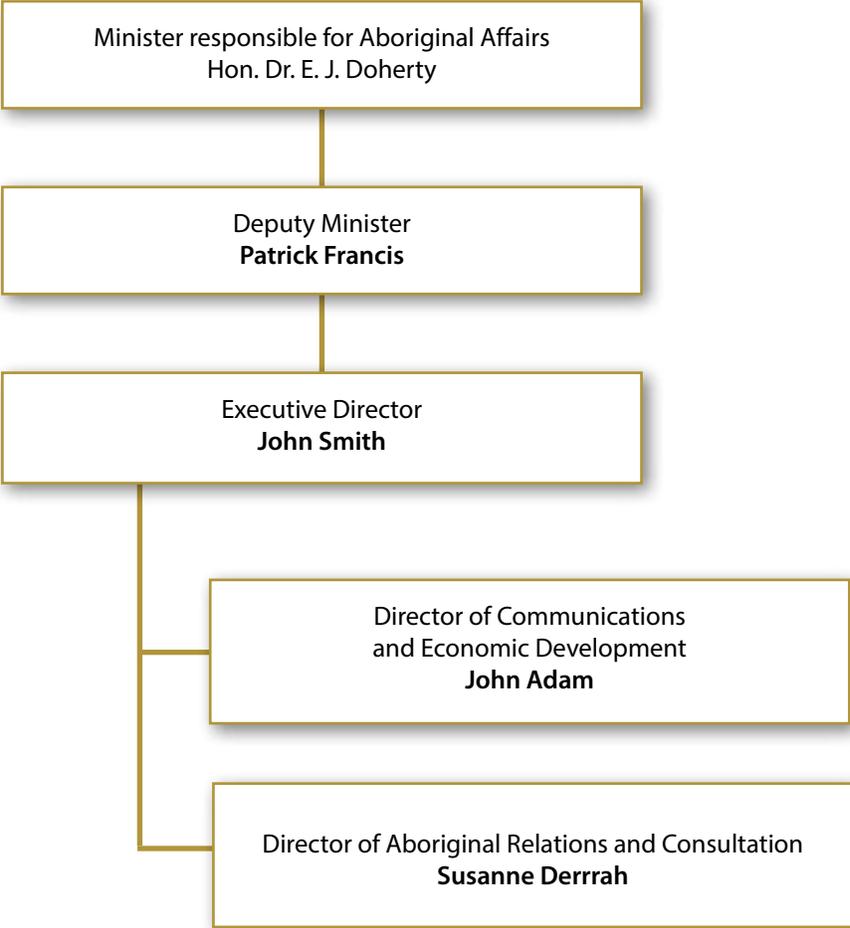
What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

Enhanced First Nations Education Programs and Services Agreement extensions were negotiated to close the achievement gap between First Nation and non-First Nation students.

Overview of departmental operations

The Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat is a division of the Executive Council Office. The secretariat's mission is to lead New Brunswick in building strong relationships with First Nations through mutual understanding and respect.

High-level organizational chart



Division overview and highlights

Communications and Economic Development Branch

Overview

The Communications and 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:

- developing communications strategies;
- monitoring and analyzing media coverage;
- managing media relations;
- 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

- Leading on several provincial/territorial/national Aboriginal organization forums (Aboriginal Children in Care/Economic Development/Housing)

The branch continues to be part of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group Committee and plays a lead role as co-chair of the Economic Development subcommittee with the Métis National Council and is co-chair on the Housing subcommittee with the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. Provincial and territorial ministries of Aboriginal Affairs continued to work together to improve the overall well-being of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people across Canada. In August 2014, the premiers discussed the disproportionate and large number of Aboriginal children in care across the country and the many complex social and economic factors that underlie this situation. During a meeting with national Aboriginal leaders, the premiers also discussed the need for a more coordinated approach to address the high number of Aboriginal children who are in care across the country; reiterated their individual commitments to work with their respective local Aboriginal communities toward

local solutions; and acknowledged the need for governments and Aboriginal communities to work collectively to address this Canada-wide problem.

The Provincial/Territorial Working Group on Improving Outcomes for Aboriginal Children in Care (Aboriginal Child Welfare Working Group), at its initial meeting on Dec. 12, 2014, ministers reviewed the direction provided by premiers and discussed the scope of the work to be undertaken. The ministers agreed that the July 2015 progress report for the premiers would focus on three priorities:

1) Early intervention and prevention: early intervention and prevention initiatives and strategies that improve the supports (including early childhood education) provided to Aboriginal families;

2) Supporting the Child Welfare system: Modernizing tools, training and standards to better support the child welfare workforce in reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care and improving the outcomes for Aboriginal children; and

3) Root Causes: Strategies and solutions that address the social and economic issues that disproportionately affect Aboriginal families and communities and are the root causes of abuse and neglect.

- Leading the New Brunswick delegation of Aboriginal leaders, women's advocates and government officials to Ottawa, on Feb. 27, 2015, for a National Roundtable on Violence against Aboriginal Women and Girls, which is the result of an August 2014 commitment by the National Aboriginal Organization and the premiers to engage in focused discussion to reach targeted outcomes to address and prevent violence against Aboriginal women and girls. This venue stimulated discussions and collaborations for moving forward with the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and generally reducing violence against Aboriginal women and girls. 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.
- The National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy was announced in 2011 with the bulk of the contract being awarded to Irving Shipbuilding in Halifax.

Recognizing the opportunities for Aboriginal trades' people and businesses to participate in this strategy, the secretariat was instrumental in obtaining about \$225,000 in federal funding through the Special Projects Initiative to prepare an action plan to maximize the benefits this project will bring once construction begins in 2015. The project is designed to identify Aboriginal businesses ready to participate in the supply chain needed to build the vessels, while identifying which trades will be in the greatest demand through the 20-year life of the procurement strategy. The branch organized pre-budget consultations for stakeholders and the public in eight locations around the province.

- The secretariat, in collaboration with the Regional Development Corporation, provided \$40,000 to Elsipogtog First Nation for upgrades to the Chief Young Eagle Recreation Centre, which benefits the entire region.
- The secretariat provided funding to Woodstock First Nation and Esgenoôpetitj First Nation for crisis management.
- The secretariat provided \$7,500 to the North Shore Micmac District Council for the development of a Seal Harvesting Initiatives proposal, which has the potential of qualifying for about \$600,000 in federal funding.
- The secretariat, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, negotiated several Enhance First Nation Education Program and Services Agreement extensions. These extensions allowed for the continuation of funds to be reinvested in First Nation education.

Aboriginal Relations and Consultation Branch

Overview

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;
- 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 has representatives on the EIA Technical Review Committee. Twenty-seven EIA registrations were received in 2014-2015. The secretariat provided input on 23 projects, some of which were registered in previous years.
- In February 2015, the branch organized an information session for various provincial departments: "Interpreting the Maritime Peace and Friendship Treaties," presented by Canadian historian William Wicken to raise awareness among provincial regulatory authorities about Aboriginal and treaty rights.
- As part of the consultation process, the secretariat provided an additional \$64,000 to Saint Mary's First Nation, Woodstock First Nation, Madawaska First Nation and the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs in New Brunswick Inc. as a collective to assist them with their continued technical review of the Sisson Brook EIA.
- The secretariat gave a number of presentations on Aboriginal and treaty rights in New Brunswick and the Duty to Consult to a government-wide policy session in September 2014; at the 12th annual Atlantic Canada and Northeast U.S. Energy Summit in October; to the New Brunswick Prospectors and Developers Association in November; and to a number of government departments.

Financial information

The secretariat has two sources of funding:

- A. Ordinary Budget – The Ordinary Budget expenditures cover the day-to-day operations of the secretariat.
- B. Regional Development Corporation – Aboriginal Affairs Initiatives Fund – The RDC Fund includes funds above the secretariat’s budget, accessed for developmental initiatives and processed through the secretariat’s accounting system.

Departmental expenditure

**Table 1: Status report by program/primary
Fiscal year ending March 31, 2015**

	Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)
Personal Services	969,100	862,320
Other Services	148,800	121,506
Material and Supplies	11,600	5,520
Property and Equipment	15,500	9,265
Contributions, Grants and Subsidies	250,000	260,000
Total	1,395,000	1,255,581

The secretariat was under-budget by \$139,419 as a result of savings in the wage bill and a reduction in operating costs.

**Table 2: Regional Development Corporation - Aboriginal Affairs initiatives
Status report by program/primary
Fiscal year ending March 31, 2015**

	Budget	Actual
Contributions, Grants and Subsidies	\$ 2,091,484	\$1,910,484
Total	\$ 2,091,484	\$ 1,910,484

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 2014-2015 for the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat.

Number of permanent and temporary employees, as of Dec. 31 of each year		
Employee type	2014	2013
Permanent	12	12
Temporary	3	4
Total	15	16

The department did not advertise any open (public) or closed (internal) 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 Civil Service Act	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) ou 16(1)c	0
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)	1
Regular appointment of students/ apprentices	Summer students, university or community college co-op students or apprentices may be appointed without competition to an entry level position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(ii)	0

Pursuant to section 33 of the *Civil Service Act*, no complaints alleging favouritism were made to the Deputy Head of the 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 Aboriginal Affairs 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 Official Language capabilities; and ensuring that clients receive service in one of the Official Languages of their choice.

In 2014-2015, 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 the recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General

Name and year of audit area with link to online document	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 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Appendix

First Nations in New Brunswick

New Brunswick has 15 First Nations communities: six Maliseet (or *Wolastoqiyik*) communities along the St. John River and nine Mi'kmaq communities along the eastern and northern coasts.

According to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's Indian Registry System, as of Dec. 31, 2014, 15,249 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 22,620¹ 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.

1 [Source: 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.]

In December 2014, the New Brunswick population was about 754,260², 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 4).

During the past two decades, issues around Aboriginal rights and title have been the subject of a number of decisions rendered by the Supreme Court of Canada. In fact, Aboriginal considerations have emerged as central to public policy development. In recognition of Aboriginal rights, GNB has committed to ensure that First Nations people have a true partner in government as well as a commitment to engage actively with First Nations in New Brunswick to enhance the inclusiveness of government decision-making authorities.

2 [Source: Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 91-002-X]

Table 1

New Brunswick and First Nations population		
Year	New Brunswick population	First Nations population
2014	754,260	15,249

Chart 1

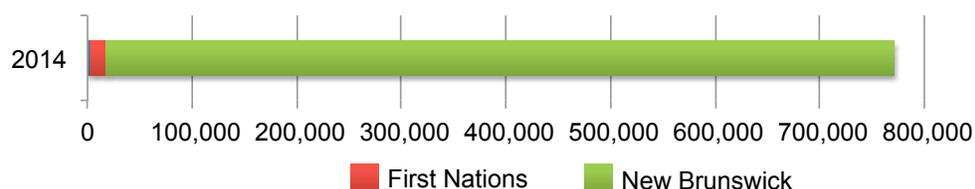


Table 2

First Nations total population in New Brunswick - 2014			
	Total	On-reserve	Off-reserve
New Brunswick	15,249	9,366	5,883
Buctouche	117	74	43
Eel Ground	1,011	566	445
Eel River Bar	708	350	358
Elsipogtog	3,245	2,538	707
Esgenoôpetitj	1,835	1,324	511
Fort Folly	129	36	93
Indian Island	182	104	78
Kingsclear	1,001	704	297
Madawaska	361	156	205
Metepenagiag	662	452	210
Oromocto	660	315	345
Pabineau	298	101	187
Saint Mary's	1,822	875	947
Tobique	2,238	1,485	753
Woodstock	980	286	694

[Source: AANDC's Indian Registry System as of Dec. 31, 2014]

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 do not contain any information about members registered to other bands who may be living on reserve.

Chart 2

First Nations total population in New Brunswick - 2014

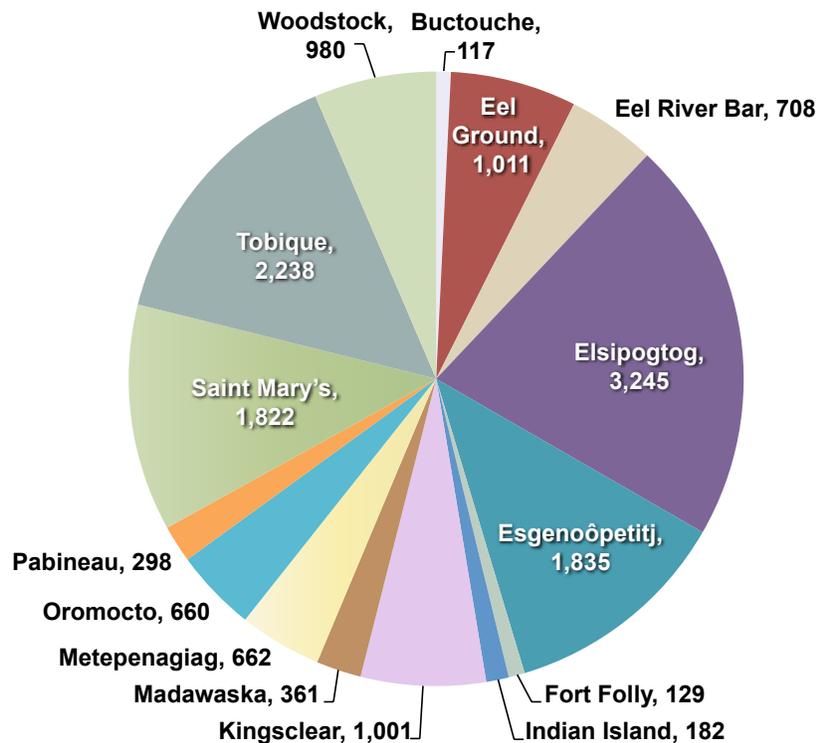


Table 3

First Nations population in New Brunswick			
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

[Source: AANDC's Indian Registry System as of Dec. 31, 2014]

Chart 3

First Nations population in New Brunswick

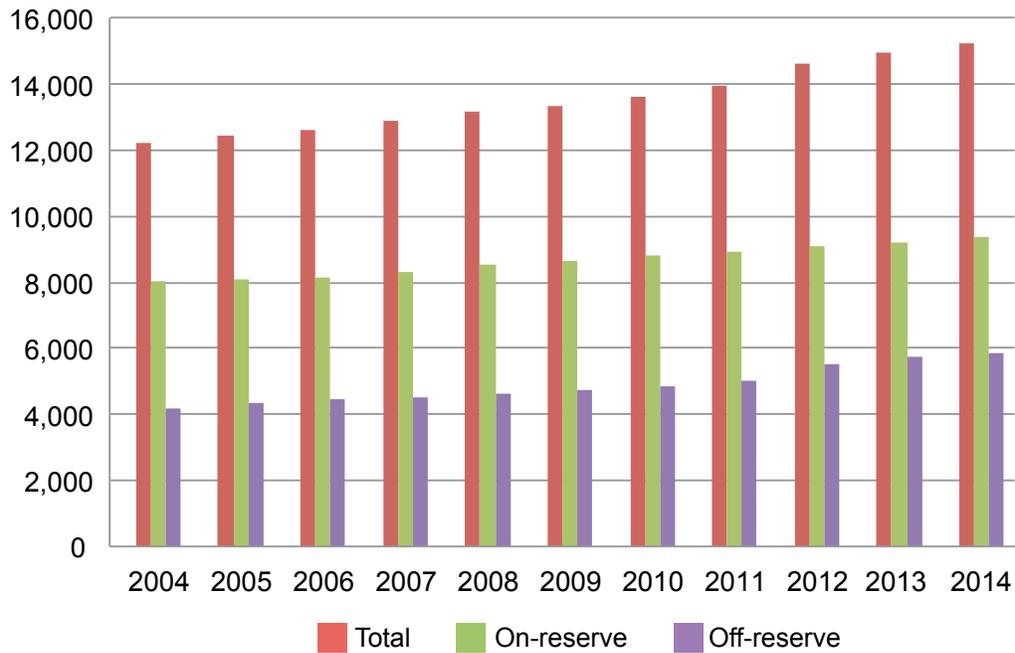


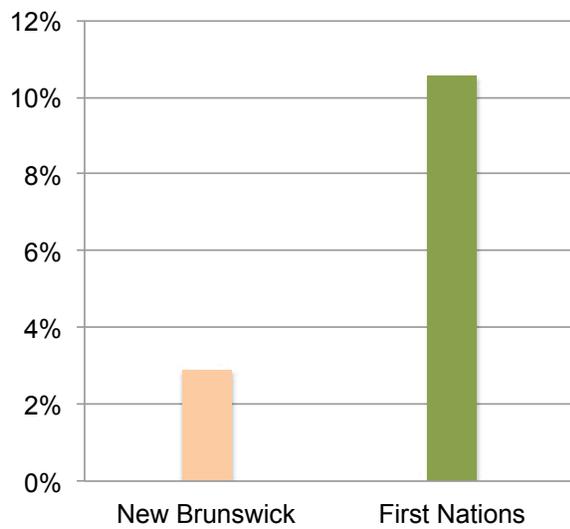
Table 4

Population growth 2006-2011		
Year	New Brunswick population	First Nations population
2006	729,997	12,616
2011	751,171	13,948
Population growth rate	2.9%	10.55%

[Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2006 and 2011]

Chart 4

**Population growth rate
(in percentage) 2006-2011**



First Nation funding

Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI Inc.)

The Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat continues to support the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI Inc.), established in 1995 as a tripartite agreement to coordinate the economic development opportunities for the Aboriginal communities 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 on 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 both on- and off-reserve Aboriginals in New Brunswick.

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

The secretariat continues to support the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs in New Brunswick Inc., a political organization incorporated in 2008 that promotes all Chiefs having an equal voice. The assembly is not a service delivery organization. Its goal is to promote a strong unified voice for the 15 First Nations in New Brunswick and have respectful and meaningful negotiations with the Crown, industry and any other relevant parties. The assembly is the representative body for negotiations on the tripartite and bilateral processes in New Brunswick.

The assembly continues to function as a representative body for those communities participating in the model and represents most First Nations. Saint Mary's First Nation has never been part of the assembly model. Madawaska, Woodstock and Elsipogtog First Nations have withdrawn.

In 2014-2015, GNB's financial commitment to the assembly was \$560,000.

First Nation agreements

GNB provides First Nations with several program 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. In some cases, funding provided through revenue-sharing agreements makes some basic social services possible because of budgetary shortfalls experienced through recent federal budget cuts.

There are two types of revenue-sharing agreements in New Brunswick.

Joint tax/gaming agreements

Between 1994 and 2001, GNB signed seven agreements with First Nations respecting the sharing of tax and gaming revenue collected on reserves. These agreements have no 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 profits from VLTs on reserve and 100 per cent of break-open ticket sales profits on tickets sold by the band are returned to it.

Stand-alone tax agreements

Beginning in September 2007, First Nations that did not have a joint tax/gaming sharing agreement were offered the opportunity to enter into a stand-alone tax sharing agreement if they were interested. GNB has since signed agreements with those First Nations. These agreements are the same as the tax portion of the joint tax/gaming agreements with the exception of an additional clause that specifically excludes International Fuel Tax Agreement tax revenue collected but not retained by GNB from the sharing provisions of the agreement.

During 2014-2015, it was announced that this revenue sharing agreements would be cancelled.

In November 2014, the Premier and Minister met with all First Nations Chiefs and/or their representatives as well as with the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs in New Brunswick to discuss the cancellation of the revenue-

sharing agreements. First Nations were informed that GNB would be reviewing the cancellation of the agreements and that there would be a review period of six months.

Following the Premier/Minister/All Chiefs meeting of March 18, 2015, First Nations Chiefs were advised that a review period of one year would be undertaken to allow for collaborative dialogue and a new path developed moving forward together.

Table 5 – First Nations revenue-sharing agreements

First Nations	2013-2014	2014-2015
Buctouche	\$196,995	\$199,737
Eel Ground	\$323,490	\$192,409
Eel River Bar	\$2,007,143	\$3,116,968
Elsipogtog	\$1,118,215	\$780,647
Esgenoôpetitj	\$714,880	\$780,211
Fort Folly	\$30,053	\$104,927
Indian Island	\$ 0	\$ 0
Kingsclear	\$1,327,167	\$1,595,526
Madawaska	\$8,388,229	\$9,388,136
Metepenagiag	\$203,318	\$236,530
Oromocto	\$2,942,619	\$2,550,587
Pabineau	\$575,494	\$497,706
Saint Mary's	\$13,538,989	\$13,290,738
Tobique	\$48,052	\$25,573
Woodstock	\$3,835,209	\$3,581,029
Total	\$35,276,853	\$36,340,724

[Source: Department of Finance]

Under the **Department of Natural Resources**, there are First Nations harvesting agreements. This department is responsible for managing these agreements; it receives royalties collected on behalf of each First Nation from the mill purchasing the wood and returns these monies to each First Nation, usually on a monthly basis.

During 2014-2015, the department released *A Strategy for Crown Lands Forest Management - Putting our Resources to Work*. Under this strategy, more than 30,000 cubic metres of additional softwood fibre will support increased opportunities within First Nations and continue to ensure five per cent of the timber harvest is used to support ongoing commercial harvest agreements with each First Nation.

Table 6 – First Nations timber royalties

First Nations	2013-2014	2014-2015
Buctouche	\$13,552	\$21,416
Eel Ground	\$192,690	\$215,958
Eel River Bar	\$93,966	\$124,195
Elsipogtog	\$431,096	\$811,985
Esgenoôpetitj	\$249,969	\$370,535
Fort Folly	\$30,387	\$ 0
Indian Island	\$25,073	\$30,337
Kingsclear	\$160,826	\$224,518
Madawaska	\$54,462	\$77,591
Metepenagiag	\$132,381	\$160,019
Oromocto	\$96,561	\$122,061
Pabineau	\$52,538	\$61,327
Saint Mary's	\$255,387	\$281,117
Tobique	\$391,833	\$567,842
Woodstock	\$165,483	\$216,407
Total	\$2,346,204	\$3,285,307

Note: Royalties paid to First Nations less associated harvest penalties.

[Source: Department of Natural Resources]

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 Nations. There are also separate First Nations policing agreements between GNB, the Government of Canada and First Nations for the RCMP First Nations Community policing service as well as an agreement between GNB, the Government of Canada, Saint Mary's First Nation and the City of Fredericton for the Fredericton City Police Force for policing service

Table 7 – First Nations policing service.

Fiscal year	RCMP	RCMP FN 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

[Source: Department Public Safety]

Under the **Department of Justice and the Office of the Attorney General**, there is a Memorandum of Understanding between GNB and the Elsipogtog First Nation for the establishment of the Elsipogtog Healing to Wellness Court, which is a pilot project that incorporates First Nations practices and culture and deals not only with crime but its underlying causes. The Healing to Wellness

Court has two streams: (1) a wellness stream; and (2) a conventional court stream. The four-year pilot project was extended to 2015-2016 to provide for a more thorough assessment of the project.

Table 8 – Budget allotment for the Healing to Wellness Court

Fiscal year	Attorney General	Court services	TOTAL
2010-2011	\$36,700	\$102,200	\$138,900
2011-2012	\$74,000	\$269,000	\$343,000
2012-2013	\$74,000	\$269,000	\$343,000
2013-2014	\$74,000	\$269,000	\$343,000
2014-2015	\$74,000	\$269,000	\$343,000
2015-2016	\$51,000	\$292,000	\$343,000

[Source: Department of Justice and the Office of the Attorney General]

Under the **Department of Education and Early Childhood Development**, there are Enhanced First Nations Education Programs and Services Agreements with all 15 First Nations. These five-year agreements eliminate the tuition gap between federally funded tuition amounts and 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 district First Nation education committee with representatives from First Nation officials and school districts considers investment proposals for personnel, programs and services ranging from Aboriginal language learning opportunities, transition projects and more.

In 2014-2015, the First Nations signed another one-year extension. First Nations are collaborating with the department on new five-year enhanced agreements (2015-2020).

Table 9 – First Nations Enhanced Reinvestment Funds

First Nations	2013-2014	2014-2015
Buctouche	\$164,049	\$37,324
Eel Ground	\$365,545	\$323,057
Eel River Bar	\$915,178	\$9,677
Elsipogtog	\$1,252,432	\$1,266,610
Esgenoôpetitj	\$0 *	\$ 0 *
Fort Folly	\$41,492	\$34,546
Indian Island	\$108,445	\$92,400
Kingsclear	\$531,510	\$619,100
Madawaska	\$300,545	(\$168,619)**
Metepenagiag	\$289,536	\$264,115
Oromocto	\$259,880	\$353,931
Pabineau	\$190,040	\$197,846
Saint Mary's	\$727,791	\$507,419
Tobique	\$829,350	\$1,357,232
Woodstock	\$263,725	\$521,567
Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation (PQ)	\$699,661	\$571,203
Total	\$6,939,151	\$5,987,407

[Source: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development]

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

** To adjust prior year's duplicate re-invested amounts.

In New Brunswick as of September 2014, there were 98,906³ students in public school in which 1,405⁴ were First Nation students living on reserve. Tuition for First Nation students is paid by the federal government under Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. For 2014, cost of tuition for each First Nation student in the public school system is \$10,775 per year. Tuition is paid to GNB in two ways. Tuition is paid directly by the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada on behalf of the band to GNB. Secondly, tuition is paid by the band to GNB.

New Brunswick has several federally funded band operated schools; these schools are from kindergarten to Grade 8 (See Table 10). There were 715⁵ students in band-operated schools as of September 2014.

Table 10 – First Nations operated schools

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

[Source: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development]

3 [Source: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development]

4 [Source: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development]

5 [Source: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development]

Special projects

Memorandum of Understanding between GNB and Tobique First Nation

The secretariat continues to participate on the Tobique Riverbank Stabilization Project Steering and Financial Committee formed through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in December 2009 between GNB and Tobique First Nation. The MOU ensures maximum economic development opportunities and benefits for the Tobique First Nation.

Tobique 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 two stages. Stage I was the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Archeological Study reports, which has been completed. Stage II was to be the actual construction phase, which started in 2014-2015.

Using a Community First Approach, the Tobique First Nation was successful in completing the stabilization of about 280 metres of riverbank. This 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 proponents adapted a Community First Approach and used local resources. This augmented the socio-economic impact by supporting individuals and companies that support Tobique First Nation businesses and institutions. Funding of \$706,554 was provided to assist with the cost associated with completing the first year of a three-year project.

Dumpsite remediation project

During 2014-2015, using a Community First Approach, the Tobique First Nation was successful in completing the remediation of the dumpsite. This 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 proponents adapted a Community First Approach and used local resources. This augmented the socio-economic impact by supporting individuals and companies that support Tobique First Nation businesses and institutions. Funding of \$352,138 was provided to assist with the cost associated with completing the project.

New Brunswick Indian Summer Games – Esgenoôpetitj (Burnt Church) First Nation

The 2014 New Brunswick Indian Summer Games were awarded to Esgenoôpetitj First Nation through a bid process facilitated by the New Brunswick Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Authority. Saint Mary's, Elsipogtog, Metepenagiag, Esgenoôpetitj, Tobique, Woodstock, Eel Ground and Eel River Bar participated. Some of the sports included were baseball, archery, soccer, track and field, canoeing and golf. Communities were equally well represented in both youth and adult sports as more than 1,000 athletes and coaches participated.

The secretariat supported the 2014 Games, held Aug. 6 to 9, 2014. In 2014-2015, GNB provided \$20,000 to help cover the cost associated with the event. This is the fifth year of the summer games following a 24-year hiatus.

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

JEDI Inc., in partnership with the secretariat and the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group, successfully launched a website to encourage economic growth in First Nations. The 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. About 40 bilingual success stories are posted on the website.

During 2014-2015, GNB provided \$12,953 to continue to monitor and populate the website based on the direction of the working group.

First Nations project-specific consultation funding – Sisson Brook EIA (Assembly of First Nation Chiefs in New Brunswick Inc., Saint Mary's, Woodstock and Madawaska First Nations)

The secretariat provided \$64,000 to Saint Mary's First Nation, Woodstock First Nation, Madawaska First Nation and the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs in New Brunswick Inc. as a collective to help them with their technical review of the Sisson Brook EIA as part of the consultation process.

Communications coordinators in First Nation communities – Assembly of First Nation Chiefs in New Brunswick Inc.

The secretariat supports the Assembly of First Nation Chiefs in New Brunswick Inc. in establishing communication coordinators for First Nations. These coordinators would assist in enabling the assembly to engage in meaningful discussions with GNB and the Government of Canada as well as in relating communications between the Assembly and First Nations. In 2014-2015, GNB provided \$112,320 to help cover the cost associated with employing these coordinators.

First Nations forestry harvesting coordinators – Assembly of First Nation Chiefs in New Brunswick Inc.

The secretariat supports the Assembly of First Nation Chiefs in New Brunswick Inc. in establishing a First Nations forestry harvesting coordinator and assistant. The role and responsibilities of the coordinators would be to facilitate dialogue among First Nations, the Department of Natural Resources and Crown timber licensees on issues related to forestry harvesting. In 2014-2015, GNB provided \$90,000 to help cover the cost associated with employing these coordinators.

Investment in mining sector training programs for First Nations

To ensure the maximization of skilled employment opportunities for the targeted clients, the secretariat and the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour consulted with industry and their supply chain companies to identify emerging opportunities for employment. Through the identification of those opportunities, GNB facilitated specific trades training programming, with successful graduates streamed into industrial settings and the various supply chain manufacturers and service deliverers involved in implementing major economic development projects.

GNB invested \$136,000 in two training programs for 23 Aboriginal individuals at Trevali Mining Corp.'s Caribou mine near Bathurst. All students are undertaking their practicum at the mine before becoming employees with the company.

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

