

**Minutes of Meeting (DRAFT)**  
**BLBRA Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Thursday, Jan 13, 2022, 1:30 – 4:00 PM**  
**Zoom call - by invite**



*We envision the Bras d'Or Lake as a special place where communities are joined together in thoughtful promotion of environmental assets and responsible economic development.*

Attendance:

<b>DIRECTORS (Member at Large)</b>		<b>DIRECTORS (Ex Officio)</b>	
Allison McIsaac	Y	Amanda Mombourquette (Richmond)	Y
Brian MacDougall ( <b>Treasurer</b> )	Y	Barbara Longva (Victoria)	Y
Chris King	Y	John MacLennan (Inverness)	
Eileen Crosby ( <b>Chair</b> )	Y	Kirsty Lock (NSCC)	Y
Liz Campbell	Y	Steve Parsons (CBRM)	
Foncie Farrell	Y	Tyler Mattheis (CB Partnership)	Y
Pierre LaRochelle ( <b>Secretary</b> )	Y		
Rodney Chaisson	Y		
Rosella Born ( <b>Vice-chair Delegate</b> )	Y		
Stan Johnson	Y		
Tracy Marshall (Youth Coordinator)			

*A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board shall consist of 50% of the Executive Committee plus 2 non-executive Board members. (Y= Present; R= Regrets sent)*

Observers/Guests: Trish Nash (IPCA), Lisa Young (UINR), Samantha Cici (IPCA), Tom Johnson (CEPI)

**1. Call to Order:**

At 1:30 pm Chair Eileen Crosby began the meeting by acknowledging that all sites designated by UNESCO in Canada as Biosphere Reserves are located on Indigenous lands. The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

Eileen noted that Cyril MacDonald will be the new CBRM ex-officio representative and comes from District 3 which overlaps with the Biosphere.

**2. Additions to the agenda:**

None

**3. Approval of the agenda:**

Motion to approve by Barbara; seconded by Rodney. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Approval of minutes from the September 16, 2021 meeting:**

Motion to approve by Brian; seconded by Tyler. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Business arising from last meeting (not dealt with elsewhere):**

**I. UNDRIP presentation** by Tom Johnson (carried over from October 2021)

Tom used a PowerPoint presentation to review how the local Mi'kmaq First Nations were instrumental in drawing up the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\)](#). In addition to a 1927 case with the Grand Chief being charged with harvesting 'out of season', milestones included these significant events:

Late 70's Presentation to the UN, from the Mi'kmaq Grand Council on becoming a nation.  
Denied due to not having the proper qualifications to be deemed as a Nation.

1980 – Letter to UN from Grand Captain Alex Denny, about how Canada was denying the Mi'kmaq from being self determined.

1982 – Four directions council created UN

2007 – UNDRIP adopted 144 - States in favor, 4 - States against - US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, 11 – Abstentions.

2010 - Canada issued a Statement of Support endorsing the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

2015 – Romeo Saganash introduced bill and this would have required the Canadian government to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with UNDRIP but it was defeated on May 6, 2015. Bill C 641.

2015 - Prime Minister of Canada asked the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs and other ministers, in the mandate letters, to implement the declaration.

2016 – Introduced as private members (Romeo Saganash , NDP) Bill C 262.

2016 - the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs announced Canada is now a full supporter, without qualification, of the declaration. Canada officially removed its objector status.

2018 – Passed house of commons in May of 2018.

2018 - 2<sup>nd</sup> reading has passed in the senate and it did not reach royal assent in the senate.

2018 -  
Canada releases the Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples, which affirms the implementation of the Declaration requires transformative change in the Crown-Indigenous relationship.

2020  
Canada introduces Bill C-15 - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and continues to collaborate with Indigenous peoples on implementing the Declaration in Canada.

On June 21, 2021, Bill C-15, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act received Royal Assent and became law.

As per the Act, the Government of Canada must fulfil three inter-related legal obligations in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples:

Take all measures necessary to ensure consistency of federal laws with the Declaration  
Develop an action plan by June 2023 to achieve the objectives of the Declaration  
Develop annual reports on progress and submitting them to Parliament

(Source: Tom's slideshow)

In UNDRIP there are 47 articles stating what needs to be done to ensure that indigenous cultures, world-wide, survive.

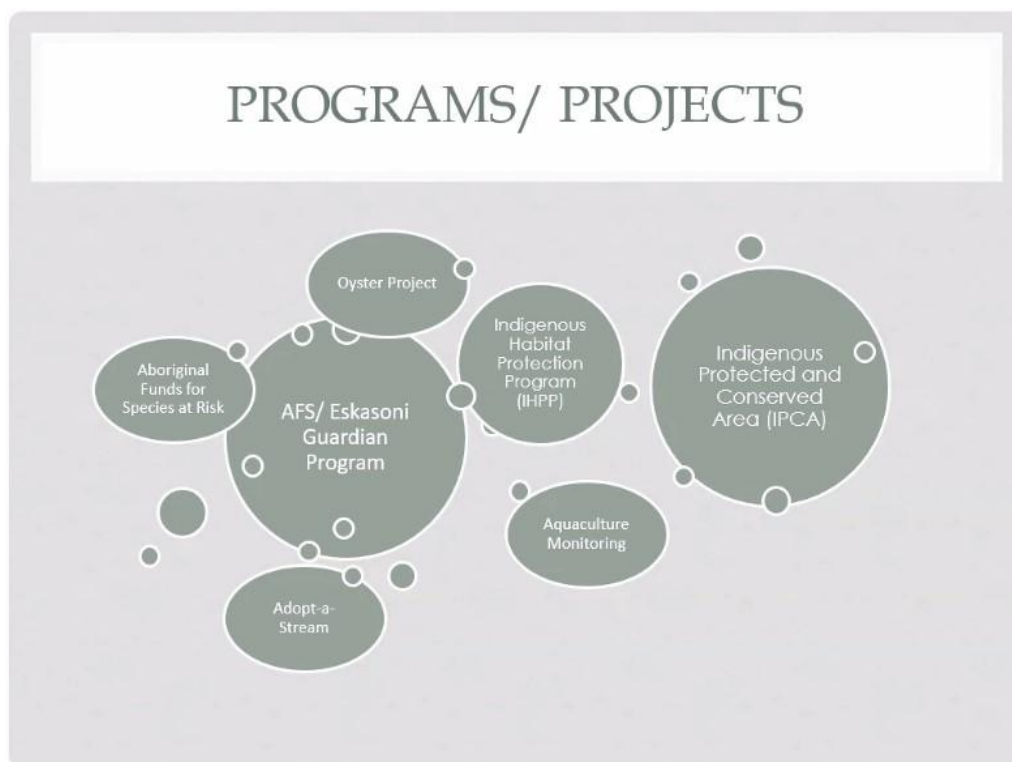
In response to Tyler, Tom reported that the strength of UNDRIP, while well recognized in western Canada, is not yet known or well understood in the east. The Canadian government is now seeking more feedback.

**Action:** Tom invited **All** to review the topic further online.

## II. Eskasoni Fish & Wildlife Commission (EFWC) Overview

Allison used a PowerPoint presentation to provide an overview of their programs. The EFWC evolved from the 1984 charges of Richard Sparrow for fishing out of season. In 1990 the Court of Canada upheld his right to fish. The Government of Canada then issued a Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS) and Eskasoni signed their first agreement in 1991 and started the Eskasoni Guardian Program soon after. [Other bands have joined since then.](#)

Overview of Eskasoni programs and projects:



(Source: Allison's slideshow)

- The AFS/Guardian Program embeds management, science, the food fishery, knowledge gathering and stewardship including outreach and education. i.e. "Speak for the fish".
- In 2014 started a 5 year River Habitat Restoration and Assessment program and is currently looking at Species at Risk including the effect of stream deflectors. Implementing GIS mapping.
- Also aquaculture monitoring and oyster brood stock.
- Indigenous Habitat protection program (IHPP) to engage communities with DFO standards.
- Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) program to reconnect people with land and create a place for healing and reconciliation and protect biocultural diversity.

In response to a question Allison explained that in one case deflectors are used to narrow streams from a 20m width to a 10m width and help create pools and a pathway for fish to make it upstream.

EFWC also grows algae to feed oysters and for display of varieties.

**Secretary's note:** See more about [Emerging Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas: The Unama'ki Mi'kmaw IPCA Project here.](#)

### III. Kluskap Cave and Connectivity - Corridor to the Biosphere

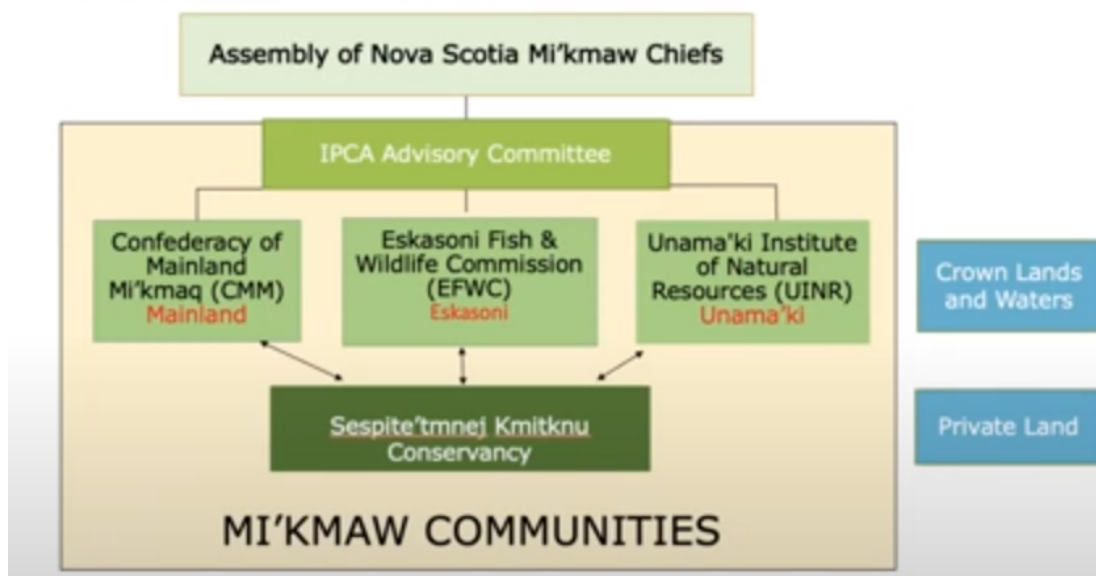
Lisa Young and Trish Nash used a PowerPoint presentation to speak about the Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) project.

Trish and Lisa shared some background: UNDRIP and TRC calls to action are the foundation of this work. There are different views between colonial and Mi'kmaq views as far as protected areas. Colonial view was to protect wilderness from people whereas the Mi'kmaq view is not as a possession but as a responsibility. By 2030 Canada wants to protect 30% of terrestrial and marine areas. Look at [We Rise Together](#) to read about the genesis of IPAC from 2017 through THE INDIGENOUS CIRCLE OF EXPERTS..

Key elements of IPCA's is that they:

- are Indigenous led
- represent a long-term commitment to conservation and
- elevate Indigenous rights and responsibilities.

## IPCA GOVERNANCE



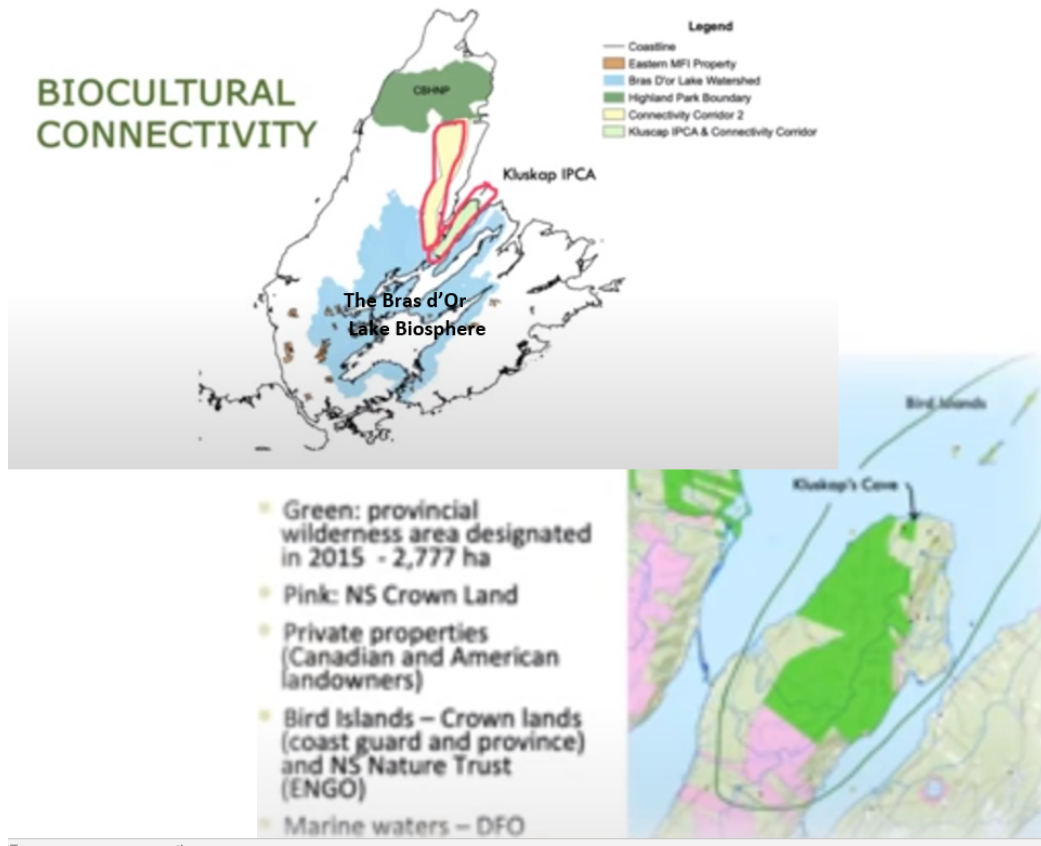
In 2019 secured funding from the Canada Nature Fund to participate in a project to conserve lands and waters across the province.

70% of NS lands are in private hands so a land trust, the Sespite'tmnej Kmitkinu Conservancy, was established in 2021 to secure and establish IPCA's in the province. One of the first indigenous led land trusts in Canada. Trish noted that 'land ownership' is not a concept prevalent among indigenous peoples.

The [Tan Telolt'k](#) report outlines the Mi'kmaq principles, framework on how IPCA's will be identified and established.

## The Kluskap IPCA

The KIPCA is based on the Kluskap legend and involves biocultural connectivity, biodiversity, marine, coastal and island inhabitants. Has a Land-Sea-Sky- People approach. It is located on an isolated peninsula and corridors to both the Cape Breton Highlands National Park and to the Biosphere are being considered.



The BLBRA and the KIPCA share many Areas of Interest (AOI) and can likely collaborate on staff, communication, funding and co-learning.

Trish recognized that there are many areas including Indian Brook, as well as the Barrachois, that are of significance. Also all species are important. Hopefully partnerships will help expand the two eyed seeing approach.

A [request for proposal](#) was sent out by UINR to get a consultant to assist with the development of a plan for biocultural connectivity (land, sky, sea) from the new Kluskap IPCA to the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve. The RFP is quite comprehensive. The final report is due at the end of March 2022.

**Action:** Eileen will share the final report with the Director's once it is received from Trish.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Brian spoke to the treasurer's report in the directors meeting folder.

We are in month 10 of the fiscal year. Figures reflect the first 9 months to data.

Total revenues to date: \$9,387. The DCBA \$5,000 grant will be carried over to the next fiscal year.

Total Expenditures to date: \$15,267. Most significant expenditure since the last meeting was \$1,639 for website maintenance and development.

Budget Status: The report reflects expenses against budget and +/- balances. Still some funds to be spent against the Strategic Planning process.

Bank Balance: \$55,610

**Action: Committee Chairs** are encouraged to identify how much of their budget will be spent before the end of fiscal year - March 31, 2022.

Motion to approve by Brian; seconded by Barbara. Motion passed unanimously.

## 7. **New Business**

### i. **Strategic Planning Draft - Discussion**

Eileen explained that among the pillars, the Environmental Protection goal should not suggest that we can advocate. She has made note of that in her comments.

Discussion arose on what a working document might look like and how progress will be reviewed - meeting by meeting etc. May lose some gems if we zero in on specifics too quickly now but SMART objectives/goals are required. Some felt that the draft was still a bit rough and needed more work.

The facilitators, Ann and Tom, have previously indicated to Eileen that a wrap up meeting could be scheduled. Discussion evolved on whether there be further meetings by pillar topic, with smaller, subject specific interested people self identifying, and whether they be facilitated.

It was ultimately agreed that Eileen review the contract and that at least one more AEC facilitated the meeting be called. And only after Ann and Tom have included the comments submitted to date and formalized the final report structure. Significantly - the operational side must be included in the discussions as they were not addressed fully in the earlier sessions.

**Action: Eileen** will arrange for another AEC facilitated meeting on a date suitable to most.

8. **Committee Reports - Chair Updates/Comments:** Note: At the end of the meeting, in response to Liz, it was clarified that committee reports and existence were being held off until after the Strategic Planning report and outcomes was completed.

9. **Nomination Committee:** Eileen asked if there were any current or past directors to volunteer for the minimum three person board. Need at least one Director on the board. Amanda also suggested that non-board members might want to join and going forward may have the past chair be a chair. No volunteers yet. The AGM is planned for June 2022 Covid protocols allowing.

**Action: All directors** are asked to consider being a chair of this committee and let Eileen know.

## 10. **Correspondence**

- I. **Airesun Global Office Space.** As filed in the meeting folder, Eileen spoke to the letter sent to Jacke Scott, Airesun Global, in support of their efforts to redevelop the East Bay School into a service centre for residents, community groups and NGO activities. Airesun Global has offered a rent-free office/meeting space to the (UNESCO) Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere. Airesun Global will be presenting their plan to CBRM January 14, 2022. If successful, space will become available after renovations are complete.
  - II. **Ocean Farming Webinar Series.** As filed in the meeting folder, Eileen spoke to the 5-part webinar series brought to her attention by Amanda.  
**Action: ALL** - Invited to check out the schedule and perhaps take in this online opportunity.
11. **Biosphere Events:**
- I. There was a very successful **Trail Workshop** held in Iona last October, 2021
  - II. **TK Foundation - Youth Sailing Request for Proposals**  
Pierre outlined that, per the TKF - Youth Sailing 2022 Program Details document in the meeting folder, there is a significant funding opportunity for groups, specifically around the lake, to provide or develop a youth sailing initiative that are reaching motivated disadvantaged youths. Up to 3 year involvement.

**Adjournment** - Motion to adjourn by Foncie at approximately 4:00 pm

Please email any corrections, clarifications or omissions to: Pierre LaRochelle % [secretary@blbra.ca](mailto:secretary@blbra.ca)