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WHO WE ARE

# Overview

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# Mission Statement

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To the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council, self-government begins – but does not end – with control over our land. Government means jurisdiction over our renewable and non-renewable resources, education, health and social services, public order and the shape and composition of our political institutions. While some of our plans may sound far-reaching to some people, they should not be regarded as a threat. We do not want to recreate a world that has vanished. We do not want to turn back the clock. Far from it. We welcome the challenge to see our culture grow and change in directions that we have chosen for ourselves. We do not want to become the objects of sentimentality. Nor do we want our culture to be preserved in amber for the amusement or even the edification of others. What we do want, what we demand, is nothing more than control over our own lives and destiny. That control is called **“SELF-GOVERNMENT”**.

# Our History

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The New Brunswick Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians, now the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council was formally organized in May, 1972

The Council is affiliated with a national organization, Indigenous Peoples Assembly of Canada, formerly known as the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, representing over 1,034,260 Off-Reserve Aboriginal People across Canada.

NBAPC endeavours to improve the social and economic standards of the Off-Reserve Aboriginal People of New Brunswick. We have implemented long term programs such as Housing, Economic Development and short projects which afford the organization the opportunity to do feasibility studies, prepare information packages, audio visual presentations, brochures and many other historical and educational aids vital to the strength and position of the Off-Reserve Aboriginal People of New Brunswick.

The organization has also taken a high profile politically by making presentations on our Inherent Right to Self-Government. We have done extensive housing surveys, youth homelessness studies, and presented comprehensive briefs to both Provincial and Federal Governments.

# What is the NB Aboriginal Peoples Council

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The New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council constitutes a community of off-reserve Aboriginal people in New Brunswick. The Council provides programs and services, including advocacy services, on behalf of off-reserve Aboriginal people in New Brunswick.

The Council is also mandated to protect the rights of off-reserve Aboriginal people to have direct representation to government through the Council.

# Aims, Goals, Objectives of NBAPC

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- A. To provide an organization for off-reserve Aboriginal People in NB for the purpose of advancing their cultural, traditional, economic and general living conditions.
- B. To work together toward reaffirmation, protection and implementation of our Aboriginal, Treaty and Land Claim Rights as Aboriginal People of NB.
- C. To work with all levels of government, public and private agencies and private industry to improve social, educational and employment opportunities for people of Aboriginal Ancestry of NB.
- D. To foster and strengthen cultural identity and pride among people of Aboriginal Ancestry in NB.
- E. To inform the general public of the special needs and rights of the people of Aboriginal Ancestry of NB and of their efforts to achieve full participation in the economic, social and political life of the Province.
- F. To co-operate with all other Aboriginal Organizations whose aims are similar.

# Membership

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Membership is required before an Aboriginal person in New Brunswick can be active politically in the Council and for certain programs, services and benefits.

However, membership in the Council is not necessary for an off-reserve Aboriginal person in New Brunswick to be a beneficiary of Aboriginal or Treaty Rights or Land Claims or to be a member of an off-reserve Aboriginal community in the Province.

# Annual Assembly

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This is the most important and most powerful body of our organization. The Annual Assembly is the ultimate decision maker. The Assembly gives the organization direction in policy when dealing with the government.

The Annual Assembly is made up of representatives from each Chartered Community Local of the Council.

The Annual Assembly receives and reacts to reports on activities of the Board of Directors, the Executive and receives the audited financial statements.

The Annual Assembly sets Resolutions, i.e., courses of action of the Council for the upcoming year.



# Board of Directors/Executive Officers

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This body of the organization is the second most important part of our organization in terms of decision making. The Board of Directors consists of the President and Chief, Vice-Chief, Zone Directors, one from each of our seven Zones and one Youth Representative who is appointed by the NBAPC Youth at the Youth Annual Assembly.

This body governs the decisions made by the Executive and ensures that the organization is following the directions through Resolutions set by the Annual Assembly.

The Executive consists of the President and Chief and Vice-Chief. The role of the Executive is to act as a liaison between Government and the Membership.

# Major Activities

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**BOCORAO:** The Basic Organizational Capacity of Representative Aboriginal Organizations Program, funded through INAC, allows our organization to carry out its operations e.g., Board meetings to be held twice yearly, annual assemblies and affords the opportunity for the Executive to represent and negotiate for Off-Reserve Aboriginal People, both provincially and nationally.

**Education Assistance:** Education Program has been in existence since the early 70s. The funding comes from the Province and Aboriginal Seafood Network (affiliated commercial fishery). Has helped many of our Aboriginal families and students through bursaries & scholarships.

**Aboriginal Fishery Strategy:** Members have access to the various fisheries to fulfill their Food, Social and Ceremonial needs for themselves and families; without fear of threat, intimidation or harassment by federal or provincial enforcement officers; until such time that this agreement is replaced with an Aboriginal and Treaty Implementation Process.

**Aboriginal Skills Employment Training Strategy:** Serves the employment/training/education needs of off-reserve Aboriginal people in NB.

**Youth Council:** Represent, promote, advocate, empower, protect and educate, off-reserve, Aboriginal youth of New Brunswick; and further, to encourage unity and the growth of the emotional, physical, mental and spiritual well being of oneself, family and community.

# Current Initiatives 2017

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**The Wise Ones:** We received funding from the Urban Partnership program to examine services and supports for seniors who live off-reserve.

**Nitap Wiguaq:** Completed phase two of youth homelessness study.

**Looking Out for Each Other:** NBAPC is working closely with Dr. Jula Hughes from the Faculty of Law at UNB. She received funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for the research phase of the project

**The Legacy Project** will culminate in a film that about the meaning and experience of NBAPC members with the Council. This spring, we brought Elders and Youth together in two workshops (one in Fredericton and one in Dalhousie).

**Walking in Her Moccasins:** The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples provided funding to hold a focus group with community members to address men's and boy's violence against women

**Financial Literacy Workshops:** We received funding from Service Canada deliver workshops on the youth financial literacy resources that were developed last year. This was very successful.

**Sharing the Knowledge: Financial abuse of Older Adults** has finished with the distribution of our resource that talks about financial abuse of seniors.

**Strengthening Revenue Sources of Rising Sun Lodge** funding to strengthen the source revenue of NBAPC, bring Rising Sun Lodge up to the required standards necessary to offer a wide range of programs and services that will help meet the social, environmental and cultural goals of NBAPC and its members.

**Eagle Project:** Pre-employment Training for Aboriginal Youth.

**Elder Outreach to NBAPC Members in Assisted Living & Retirement Residences:** New funding to enable Chief and Youth to meet with NBAPC seniors.

**Partnerships and Protocols in a Relationship Agreement:** New funding to consult with members toward the development of a relationship agreement with Province of New Brunswick.

**Indigenous Early Childhood and Learning:** Workshop on indigenous early learning and childhood to inform National Indigenous Early Learning and Childhood Strategy.

**National Housing Strategy:** NBAPC Board of Directors and members participated in two focus groups on housing. A report was prepared for submission to the National Housing Strategy.

Wela'lin, Woliwon  
Merci, Thank you