

**The following artifact is an outline for a book that Elder Ellen Hunt and I are currently working on together. We have submitted to Fernwood Publishing and are waiting to hear back.*

Provisional Title: The Mi'kmaw History of Lunenburg County for Many Millennia to Present Day

Subtitle: Shared History of the Mi'kmaw and Settlers of Lunenburg County

Theoretical Framework of Book

The dominant narrative that is taught about Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia in public schools usually begins at contact with European explorers. In general, historical accounts ignore the plus 10,000-year-old Mi'kmaw narrative and presence. Drawing from the Mi'kmaw perspective and using Indigenous storytelling guidelines this book seeks to recreate Lunenburg County generations prior to the arrival of Europeans.

This text will be a history of Lunenburg County that privileges the Mi'kmaw voice in describing who they are as a people. Drawing on lived experiences, Mi'kmaw oral traditions, personal interviews, document analysis, and archeological evidence, readers will be presented with the significant connections that the Mi'kmaw have had to this place for many millennia. The book will also re-story the history of colonization of Lunenburg County from a Mi'kmaw perspective and will comment on the present-day relationship of the Mi'kmaw and settlers in the area. This book is intended for the general audience and can also be used as a teaching tool. This will be accomplished by gaining insight from the Mi'kmaw point of view of how to consider mainstream colonial history in another way.

To gain a sense of where Lunenburg County fits into a larger Mi'kmaw historical context the first two chapters of the book will describe who the Mi'kmaw are as well as their territory known as Mi'kma'ki. Keeping with how the Mi'kmaw used storytelling as a teaching tool, each chapter will be its own story. The authors use Mi'kmaw methods of weaving factual knowledge with a good yarn as a mode to make learning interesting.

For many reasons this is an important piece of work. For starters, the book proposal is an example of how the Mi'kmaw and non-Indigenous peoples can work together on socially just education initiatives. As well, this book validates the practice and use of decolonization theory, relationship and participatory action methodology as well as a unique way to foster Indigenous allyship and unsettling settler ideology. This book is a true example of both authors understanding of what it means to be an Indigenous ally and how this relationship can be practiced in an educational way to enact social change.

When reading this book the audience is able to recognize the many unearned privileges that they invisibly receive from Canadian societal structures that come as a result of the injustices experienced by the Mi'kmaw and other Indigenous Canadians. As a result, this book places an accountability on the reader to take responsibility to change these inequalities. At its very core, this text is tied to the mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action that requests all Canadians must learn about their colonial history from an Indigenous understanding.

In a nutshell, this work is the co-creation of shared historical narratives between the Mi'kmaw and settlers that privileges the voice of the Mi'kmaq. These new stories help connect the settlers to the land upon which they live and share with the Mi'kmaq in a richer way. This book also helps the Mi'kmaq further understand their deep connections to Mi'kma'ki and who they were for many millennia, prior to European colonization.

The authors of this book both live in Lunenburg. One author is a local Mi'kmaw Elder who researches Mi'kmaw history in Lunenburg County and specialises in authenticating Mi'kmaw burial grounds in the area. As an aging Elder, she feels it is crucial that we create a written document of all the research she has done on the Mi'kmaw in Lunenburg County for future generations. Originally from the south coast of Newfoundland, Elder Hunt has traced her mother's family roots to both Mi'kmaq and Acadians ancestry living in Port Royal as far back as 1634. The second author is a PhD student who has original European settler roots when Lunenburg was colonized by the British in 1753. She has been working with the local Mi'kmaw community, researching Lunenburg colonial history from a Mi'kmaw point of view.

Both authors are currently working on a decolonizing project with the Mahone Bay Settlers Museum, Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia. The authors role with the museum is to do support the recent indigenizing initiative by the museum to honour how the Mi'kmaw want to be represented in the museum as well as unsettle historical settler ideology in Lunenburg County.

The book is anticipated to be approximately 500 pages in length. The anticipated date of completion is hopefully a year from now. Since there is so much undocumented information about the Mi'kmaq who lived in Lunenburg County we welcome the opportunity to publish more than one book!

Chapter Summaries

Chapter Ne'wt (One)

“L’nu” People of the Dawn!

This chapter will describe who the Mi'kmaw are, where they came from, where they lived, how they did things, who they are as a people and their sacred relationship with the land. Included are two maps. The first, illustrates the seven geographical districts of Mi'kmaw territory known as Mi'kma'ki. The second is a map of Lunenburg County which includes relevant Mi'kmaw place names and shows where they lived.

Chapter Da’pu (Two)

Mi'kmaw Knowledge Based Systems

This chapter briefly describes four important principles that the Mi'kmaq practice. The first is Msit No'kmaq which roughly translates into all my relations. Weji-sqalia'timk which roughly translates into deep connections to place, Netukulimk which means the natural bounty that is provided by the Creator for the self-support and well-being of individual's and their community and lastly Thinking Seven Generations Ahead. Instrumental to understanding Mi'kmaw ways of knowing is the inherent relationship, reciprocity and reverence that the Mi'kmaq have with the intelligence of the land

Chapter Si'st (Three)

Water Highways as Transportation

This chapter will explore the important transportation systems of the rivers, harbours and bays in Lunenburg County. Included is a map of well documented routes that the Mi'kmaq used throughout Lunenburg County to connect to broader water systems throughout Mi'kma'ki.

Chapter Ne'w (Four)

Local Medicine and Traditional Healing

This chapter will explore the ceremonies and local plants that the Mi'kmaq used for nutritional, health and medicinal reasons.

Chapter Na'n (Five)

āseedik

This chapter takes a look at the town of Lunenburg which the Mi'kmaq called āseedik or place of many clams.

Chapter Asukom (Six)

Mirlgueche 1600's

This chapter describes the Mi'kmaw/Acadian community that developed in āseedik.

Chapter L'uiknek (Seven)

Lunenburg 1753

This chapter describes the Mi'kmaw's perspective on the British colonization of āseedik/Mirlgueche.

Chapter Ukmuljin (Eight)

Beginning of Land Dispossession and loss of Mi'kmaw Way of Life

This chapter examines how Great Britain created Lunenburg as a European settlement in an attempt to take over Mi'kmaw territory in Lunenburg County. This type of human exploitation which gave way to new settler's ownership over lands that were occupied by the Mi'kmaq was disastrous to the Mi'kmaq's whole way of life.

Chapter Pesquantek (Nine)

Living Treaties, Broken Promises and Mi'kmaw Rights

Regardless of governmental attitude of entitlement, the land and resources in Lunenburg County are tied to treaties. This chapter helps the reader gain insight into understanding treaties as living documents which have constitutional significance in contemporary life.

Chapter Newtiska'q (Ten)

Ancestors Who Rest Here

This chapter examines the various Mi'kmaw burial grounds that exist throughout Lunenburg County.

Chapter Newtiska'q jel ne'wt (Eleven)

Something Good from Something Bad

Different Mi'kmaw Elders tell their stories about how residential schools, the Indian Act, and Canadian Health have negatively impacted their lives. Regardless of what happened, these stories show how these individuals took adverse circumstances and turned them into something positive.

Chapter Newtiska'q jel na' n (Twelve)

Contemporary Times

This chapter briefly discusses who the Mi'kmaq are today. Regardless all that has happened the Mi'kmaq are still here, continue to move forward and are working towards self-determination.

Mi'kmaw Historical Timeline

A timeline of important dates in Mi'kmaw history, colonization, and significant Peace and Friendship Treaties as they relate to Lunenburg County.

Glossary

In-depth glossary defining and clarifying important Mi'kmaw words, terms and meanings used in this book. Includes Mi'kmaw words and phrases, with pronunciation guidelines.