

Listuguj Wi'gation

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Listuguj, Gespe'gewa'gi, Mi'gma'gi



Photo by: Third Party

LOCAL AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT JODIE CALLAGHAN

By Ann Marie Jacques

Jodie Callaghan (Barnaby) has many impressive achievements and accomplishments, both academically and careerwise. She is an award-winning author and has a number of degrees, including a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Journalism, a Post Graduate Diploma in Education, and a Master of Education. Callaghan has worked as a journalist with APTN in the Halifax bureau and has worked and studied abroad in Scotland. Since her return to Listuguj, she has been an educator for the past 10 years. She currently teaches English at the Adult Education centre in the community, Elawsingewei Gina'muo'guom.

Callaghan wrote her story, *The Train*, in 2009-2010. The story is about a young girl who learns about her Great-Uncle's experiences and the long-lasting and damaging effects of residential school. The Uncle reminisces about a train in their community that was used to transport the children to residential school, where their lives would change forever. The story centers on the young girl's emotions and initial reaction to learning about residential school. She said that the young girl in the story represents how she felt, or how anyone might feel upon learning about Canada's tragic history. They may go through many emotions, like anger, and confusion, but these feelings are valid and are important to be talked about, for educational purposes and for healing.

The story was written around the time of the government of Canada's apology to former students in the residential school system. Callaghan had been working for APTN at the time and was covering news stories at the former site of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School. She interviewed survivors and their family members, and they shared their experiences and stories with her on that historical day. Regarding her inspiration for *The Train*, Callaghan said, "There was an elder there, he was a survivor, and he was talking about getting on a train to go to the

school, and I had that visual in my mind – these little children getting on this train. When you think about little kids getting on trains, it's exciting, it's a positive experience, but for the survivors, it was the opposite."

Callaghan's grandmother, Margie Martin had attended the Indian Day School in the community. Some of the references in *The Train* were direct examples from her grandmother's own personal experience.

Callaghan submitted her story to Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi Secretariat (MMS) for their annual Mi'gmaq Writers Award contest, where she won first place. Years later, a publishing company, Second Story Press announced they were holding an Indigenous Writing and Illustration Contest. She decided to submit *The Train*, and won the children's category. For winning this contest, she had her story published by Second Story Press, after they found Georgia Lesley to provide the book's illustrations, it was released to the public in March 2020.

The book's success has earned Callaghan multiple award nominations, including the 2021 Silver Birch Express Award, the 2022 Ann Connor Brimer Award for Atlantic Canadian Children's Literature, and the 2022 Indigenous Voices Award. *The Train* is available locally at The Flying Canoe Bookstore, and online at Amazon, Chapters, or GoodMinds Indigenous Books. The book also comes in the dual-language edition, called *G'as*, which was interpreted and translated by local elder, Joe Wilmot.

Callaghan said that she has always wanted to write a book and have it published, so the whole experience was very surreal. When she is not teaching, or spending time with her family, she is still writing. For her next project, she plans on writing young adult horror stories focusing on Indigenous lore.

MAWIOMI TREATMENT CENTER

Supporting Individuals with Addictions Culturally and Clinically

By Ann Marie Jacques

The Mawiommi Treatment Center in Gesgapegiag was developed in 1986. The goal of the center was to provide treatment both culturally and clinically to those battling addiction. It was initially built to help serve the people of Gesgapegiag and Listuguj, but has grown into something much more, and has become a significant resource to people all over Quebec, and the Maritimes. The center was closed for renovations in May this year and re-opened in August with new features and updates.

The center is an eight-bed residential facility and offers a six-week treatment service for those battling with substance abuse and addictions. The treatment center consists of over 20 staff members. There are various types of healing treatments and plans that are practiced in the facility. There is a culture program, in which traditional healers offer ceremonies, sweat lodges, cultural teachings, medicine picking, and more. There are clinical-based workshops available as well, aiding those with mental health concerns, depression, anxiety, and more. As of recently, the center has a partnership with a local psychologist who provides one hour of therapy each week to clients in the facility. After the six-week treatment program is complete, there are aftercare counselors who follow up with the clients for up to 18 months.

Melissa Bryan is the Executive Director at the Mawiommi Treatment Center. She took on this position a year ago but has been working at the center for four years. When it comes to the center, Bryan said, "It has really evolved over the years, more importantly the last five years. I've noticed a big shift in the service delivery. We're no longer just providing a roof over individual's heads and keeping them sober for six weeks, it's more than that. We're trying to evolve into pre-treatment services, aftercare, tapping into family resources, family support, and outreach and outpatient services."

The center offers a LiveChat which is available 24/7 to anyone looking for support and guidance. There are staff who work all day and throughout the night on this chat, "They are well trained in responding to some of those difficult situations and conversations. All of them are also trained for suicide evaluations and suicide risk assessment," said Bryan. You can find the LiveChat via Facebook, under the name, "Mawiommi LiveChat". Other resources available are Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, which are open every Tuesday and Thursday evening for anyone to attend.

The staff at the Mawiommi Treatment Centre are incredibly supportive and knowledgeable when it comes to helping their clients. It's important to be surrounded by loved ones, and support circles. Not only does addiction impact the individual battling it, but it also affects their family and the people around them. Regarding self-care and mental health, Bryan said, "We often don't prioritize ourselves or take care of ourselves. We all have experienced some form of trauma, and with that, we kind of lose ourselves in it. Over years and years, it really affects the individual. It has a toll- so just seeing people be well. It's no longer just being sober, or happy. You just want to be well."

If you or a loved one is dealing with the effects of substance abuse and addictions, the Mawiommi Treatment Center is always available to contact. They will provide you with information and resources to help you begin your journey to wellness.

You can find contact information on Facebook on their page, "Mawiommi Treatment Center" or on their website: <https://www.mawiommi.org/>.



Photo by: Third Party

DEVEN AND AMANDA MAKE HISTORY ON THE AMAZING RACE CANADA

By Ann Marie Jacques

Although Deven Condo-Mitchell and Amanda Larocque didn't make it to the finale of The Amazing Race Canada, their legacy and appearance on the show has made history across Turtle Island. The couple brought laughter to viewers week after week, and it was incredible to see the perseverance and growth that came with each challenge. The community of Listuguj has enjoyed watching and is very proud of the couple for earning fourth place overall in the show.

The challenges in the show required concentration, patience, and communication, and Condo-Mitchell and Larocque had to work together and strategize on their game. Larocque said, "We grew a lot as a couple. We grew stronger. Our communication skills were getting better every leg." The couple would like to encourage others to put themselves out there and get out of their comfort zone because anything is possible.

The couple had their favourite challenges and locations visited while on the show. Condo-Mitchell's favourite challenge was bungee jumping in Whistler, British Columbia, while Larocque's was taking part in the tree dancing challenge in Tofino, British Columbia. When it comes to the friendships they made on the show, the couple keeps in contact with fellow competitors via a group chat and getting together whenever they can.

It's no secret that Condo-Mitchell and Larocque were entertaining with their humour. Their appearance on the show came with plenty of funny moments and quotes, Larocque laughed and said, "Holy Nisgam - people are asking for t-shirts."

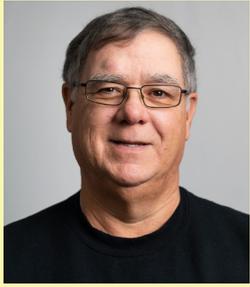
People from across the nation tuned in to watch the show and cheer on Condo-Mitchell and Larocque, and the couple are grateful and overwhelmed by the support they received. Condo-Mitchell said, "We made history. We were the first Mi'gmaq team from the East Coast to represent Mi'gma'gi. There was a great responsibility, and the amount of love and support we got was truly remarkable."

Larocque expressed her gratitude, and said, "Welalioq and gesaluloq - we love you all. Thank you all for the support throughout this race, it was truly amazing."



Photo by: Third Party

Chief's Corner



Summer is officially over, and we have moved into the Fall months. I'd like to thank the garden staff for their harvests, and for working hard this season to supply Listuguj with healthy and fresh vegetables. I'd also like to thank the community for their patience and caution over the last month with the construction in our area. Upgrades and development are important, and it is what push us further as a community. Lastly, I'd like to use this time to congratulate Deven Condo-Mitchell and Amanda Larcoque on earning fourth place on The Amazing Race Canada. On behalf of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government, we are very proud to have you represent Mi'gmaḡi and we enjoyed being part of your journey on the show.

Photo by: Franky Photography

PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTION

By Economic Development

Have you recently turned 18 years of age?

The Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government wishes to inform Listuguj youth who turn 18 years of age to make an application for their land claim Per Capita Distribution. Listuguj youth who have turned 18, have up to 5 years following their 18th birthday to make their application. Failure to come forward by the 5-year deadline will result in the monies being forfeited.

For example:

If you turned 18 on May 6, 2018, you have until May 5, 2023 to apply. If you turned 18 on January 6, 2023, you have until January 5, 2028 to apply.

Contact Tim Dedam by email at tim.dedam@listuguj.ca or by phone at 418-788-2136 to make your application or confirm if your name appears on the qualifying band membership list made on April 29, 2015.

You can also visit www.listuguj.ca/forms/ to download the application and instructions.

See below for the quarterly payment schedule. If your completed application is not received before each deadline date, it will be paid in the next scheduled quarter.

Listuguj Mi'gmaq Land Claim Settlement Per Capita Distribution for Listuguj Minors Turning 18 Quarterly Payment Schedule

January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023 = **Payment in April 2023**

April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 = **Payment in July 2023**

July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023 = **Payment in October 2023**

October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 = **Payment in January 2024**

LMDC

OFFERING PROGRAMS BASED ON COMMUNITY NEEDS

By Ann Marie Jacques & LMDC

The Listuguj Mi'gmaq Development Centre (LMDC) has been a staple in the community for over 25 years. The Centre opened in 1996 and provides education, training, and development opportunities. The staff ensures that community members have the tools and resources they need to attend adult education or vocational schooling and to be job-ready to get into the workforce. The LMDC began operating out of various locations in Listuguj, and the facility located on Pacific Drive was built and opened to the public in 2004. The building consists of several classrooms along with a fully functioning garage used for training purposes.

Jennifer LaBillois-Metallic has been employed with the LMDC since the very beginning. She has taken on a number of roles, but as of December 2022, she is now the Director of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Development Centre.

LaBillois said, "We have been offering programming to the community based on needs, that was the whole premise of the LMDC right from the beginning. Develop planning, program design, and implementation." The staff receives feedback from community members as to which programs could be helpful to have offered. This type of data is collected through needs assessment surveys, or just from community members contacting the LMDC to inquire about programs. Once the LMDC receives the feedback on desired programs, the staff will then reach out to institutions and try to bring the programs to the community.

Training is mostly at a vocational level at the LMDC. One vocational training institute that is housed at LMDC is Eastern Shores School Board. They have been in partnership since the early 90's and have offered several programs and training over the years. These programs include Licensed Practical Nurse, Home Care Attendant, Secretarial/Accounting, and various trade programs (Carpentry, tiling, etc.)

Another program that is currently available at the LMDC is the Wildlife Protection Officer course held by Collège d'Alma. This course was requested by Listuguj Public Security and Natural Resources to have trained officers to support the management and monitoring of the environment in Listuguj's traditional territory.

The Adult Mi'gmaq Immersion program is an LMDC initiative that began in 2016-2017. Initially, the LMDC rented classrooms at the Education Complex, and this year, the program has found a new home at the LMDC building.

Other programs and services that can be offered at the LMDC include youth employment programs (Step-by-Step), workshops on healthy living, financial fitness, life skills, and much more.

Over the years, many individuals have benefitted from the LMDC's services. LaBillois is happy to see the progress and the Centre's impact in Listuguj. When it comes to what she likes most about working at the LMDC, LaBillois said, "To see the successes of our community members over the past 27 years."

The LMDC has helped many individuals gain the training, skills, and confidence they need to enter the workforce for the first time or help determine what career path they would like to take. The staff is knowledgeable and eager to assist when it comes to resumes, applying for jobs, career counseling/research, and applying for funding.

MI'GMawei MAWIO'MI SECRETARIAT HOSTS A DISCO-THEMED GOLF TOURNAMENT AT THE RESTIGOUCHE GOLF CLUB!

By MMS

Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi Secretariat Hosts a Disco-Themed Golf Tournament at the Restigouche Golf Club!

The 14th Annual MMS Golf Tournament saw the much-awaited return after a long hiatus due to the pandemic and was held on September 22, 2023, at the Restigouche Golf Club.

With over ten teams registered, the winners of the competition were:

(First Place):

Casen Martin, Remis Paradis, Derek Mulcahy, Gilles Legacy

(Second Place):

Bob Smith, Ryan Valdron, Kenny Valdron, Alex Doucet

(Third Place):

Philippe Bujold, Jasmine LeBlanc, Miguel LeBlanc, Jean Philippe Perron

Closest to the pin:

Erika Marchand, Alex Doucet

Longest Drive:

Amanda Larocque, Jean Philippe Perron

Best Dressed:

Kelvin Jacques, Kelvin Jacques Jr., Winston Barnaby, Dakota Barnaby

The MMS wishes to acknowledge the MMS Golf Committee – their dedication and meticulous planning ensured that every facet of the event ran smoothly. We are grateful to everyone and all the sponsors who contributed to making this day a success.

AV Group NB Inc.	Exterminex LTD	Listuguj Mi'gmaq Development Center	Port of/de Belledune
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Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi Secretariat Congratulates the Newly Elected Chief of Gesgapegiag

The Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi Secretariat congratulates the newly elected Gesgapegiag Chief Rod Larocque and the Council on the recent August election. We eagerly anticipate future collaborations and, together, amplify our voices to advance shared objectives.



Coming Soon! Launch of the Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi Secretariat's new website

The Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi Secretariat (MMS) is thrilled to announce that our new website will be designed to provide users with an accessible and updated site.

What can you expect?

Updates from MMS Units: Navigate through the sections for the latest news, initiatives, and activities from each of the MMS units. The website aims to keep the public updated and informed.

Meet our team: Get familiar with the profiles of the MMS team and gain insights into their roles, expertise, and contributions to the Secretariat.

Resource archive: Browse through a compilation of resources highlighting significant milestones from the past 20 years, like annual reports and the Gespispig. We will also showcase the past Mi'gmaq Writers Awards and the Elder's Awards to celebrate and honour the voices and talents of our communities.

NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION





Did You Know?

Articles and photos can be also accessed online on our website: news.listuguj.ca.

For community inquiries contact: feedback@listuguj.ca



Listuguj
MI'GMAQ GOVERNMENT