

## Native Council of Prince Edward Island

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MP Sean Casey:

The Mi'kmaq historically has a matriarchal society. This means that the woman's voice was and is heard very clearly when important decisions were being made. This, again, is attributable to their role as life-giver: when decisions that affect the future of the people are being made, the ones who gave birth to those people should have the controlling input to the decision.

Respecting your request for nomination of community members who embody the reconciliation of Aboriginal peoples to be awarded commemorative pins, the Native Council of PEI has nominated the following women:

**President & Chief, Lisa Cooper** – The mandate of the Native Council of PEI is to advocate on behalf of and to give collective voice to the Mi'kmaq and other Aboriginal persons living off-reserve in traditional Mi'kmaq territory. Lisa as a Chief, a teacher, mentor and champion for the community promotes the message that we must learn from the past and work toward a better future.

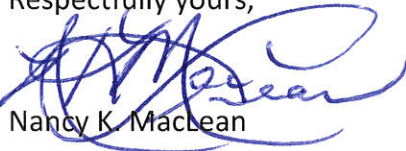
**AWA President, Judy Clark** – The Aboriginal Women's Association unites all Aboriginal women from across the Island. As the president and an elder of the community, Judy demonstrates the AWA vision of "Stronger Women Create Stronger Communities".

**Mi'kmaq Family Resource Center, Sharon O'Brien** – For more than 25 years under the guidance of Sharon O'Brien, the Mi'kmaq Family Resource Center has been a welcoming place where families can come together to practice, learn and enjoy the Mi'kmaq language and culture. Together the children and families can learn from each other how to be strong leaders in the community.

**Dawne Knockwood** – The "Mass Blanket Exercise" is a teaching tool to share the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. As a trained facilitator of the Mass Blanket Exercise, Dawne presents this Indigenous perspective of history as a step on the path to reconciliation in moving forward with more positive relationships.

**Corinne Chappel** – Corinne has been instrumental for ensuring that Aboriginal studies courses are being offered in the provincial school system. The course is open to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students and reflects in a positive way many aspects of Mi'kmaq culture, history, language, folklore, government and spirituality and promotes the concept that the more students learn about the past, treaty rights, etc, the better equipped they are to understand the present circumstances and move toward a brighter future.

Respectfully yours,



Nancy K. MacLean

Executive Assistant