



The Abegweit Update

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KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED

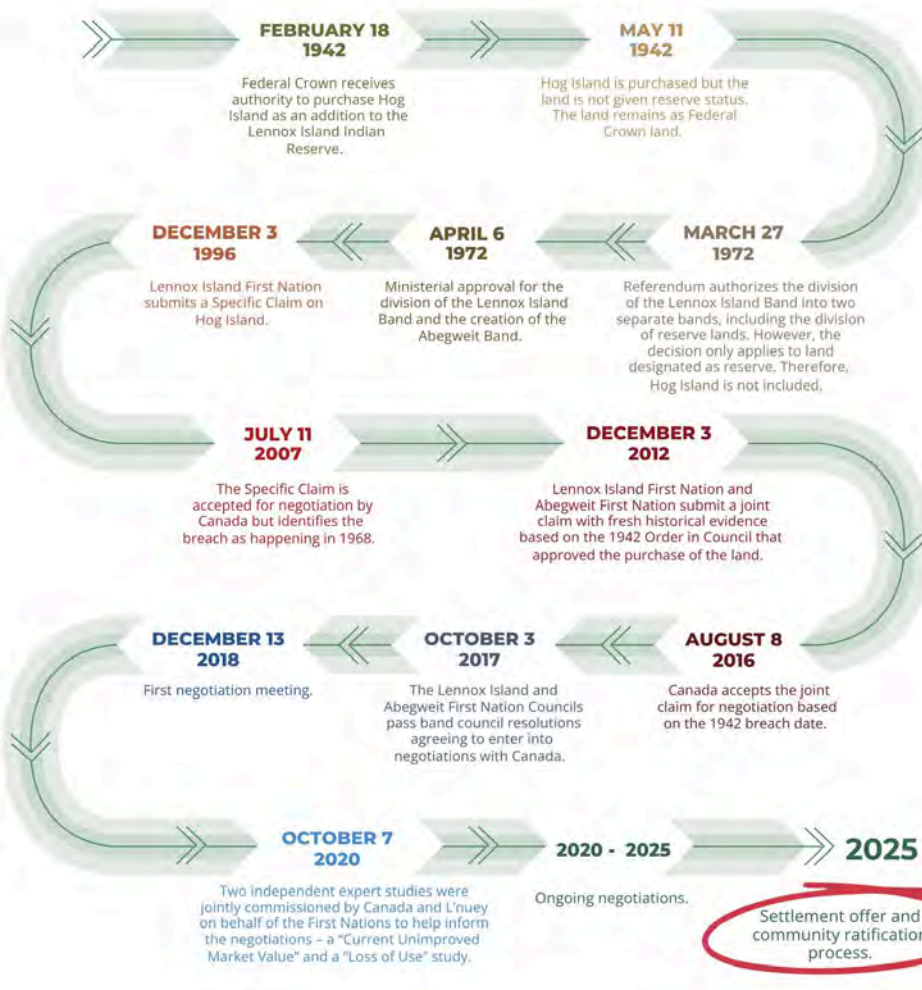
February 2025

Specific Claims - Hog Island Update

SPECIFIC CLAIMS Hog Island

Hog Island is the collective name for the lands originally composed of George Island, George's Sand Island, Fish Island and Bill Hook Island. George's Sand Island and Bill Hook Island are now joined.

A Specific Claim, otherwise known as a Specific Land Claim, deals with past wrongs against First Nations caused by a breach of Canada's fiduciary duty. These claims relate to the administration of land and other First Nation assets and to the fulfillment of historic treaties and other agreements.



“ After almost 30 years of effort it is gratifying to be able to bring this settlement to our communities for ratification. **We never gave up** on this claim, and we are pleased to finally be nearing a conclusion. While the process isn't completed yet, we have reached a critical milestone. **We see this as just the beginning** - we are actively working on more specific claims through L'Nuey, and our councils will continue to push for resolution of these past wrongs as well. this is a significant achievement for our communities. ”

- CHIEF JUNIOR GOULD

Following a multi-year process involving independent studies and valuation negotiations, including exchange of verbal offers and counter offers, a letter of offer was received by the Councils in February 2025. The offer has been accepted by the Councils and the process of communication and planning for a community vote will now begin. A final settlement agreement is not finalized until a successful majority community vote.

The global offer of 18MIL includes negotiations funding support and ratification costs, with the total amount available for settlement of 17.5MIL.

The global without prejudice offer allows for the purchase of replacement lands that can be submitted to the Additions to Reserve process should the First Nations choose to do so. A final determination as to use or distribution of the settlement has not been made, and a final agreement is subject to community ratification.

The community will be holding community meetings in March to share more information on this process and to discuss the next steps.

Staff Highlight



Courtney Sark
Land Planning Intern
Land Management
csark@abegweit.ca

Courtney started with Abegweit in September 2024 in the Lands Department as a Land Planning Intern. She will be continuing the work that Zach Gould started with the Land Code and will be creating a Land Use Plan for Scotchfort, Rocky Point and Morell. This Land Use Plan will provide guidance to the Band on the best uses of reserve lands and resources by looking at the impact any change will have on the community, the economy, and the environment. Keep an eye out for future notices looking for community input on land use!



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Health Updates

UPEI Nursing Students Sophia Jay and Marie-Pierre Thibault-Messier are here with us at the Health Centre until April. They are doing a project on improving balance and mobility, and reducing the risk of falls in the home. Any input or suggestions from community welcomed!



Spring seeds were planted at the greenhouse with the help of Chais Youth



Elder Quill workshop lead by Melissa Peter-Paul



Great turn out at the Seasonal Affective Disorder lunch and learn with Melody, RD, Julie, RN and Shannis, MSW, RSW

3 vs 3 Hockey Tournament



Stephen Gould hosted the Scotchfort Showdown and gathered 30 players for this 3v3 tournament. In the end it was the Flyers, a team from Fort Augustus that took it home with a 5-4 championship win. Another event will likely be held before the end of the winter due to the great turn out.

International Indigenous Tourism Conference 2025



Staff from the Abegweit First Nation attended the largest Indigenous Tourism conference in Montreal this month. The team from PEI took in amazing success stories from Indigenous tourism entrepreneurs from all over Canada and the world. As always the conference delivered great entertainment, keynote speakers, panel discussions and local cultural experiences throughout the 3 days. Indigenous PEI took home the Tourism Association of the Year Award!

Thank You Premier Dennis King



On behalf of Abegweit First Nation, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your leadership and dedication to Epekwitk over the past six years. Your commitment to reconciliation and Epekwitknewaq Mi'kmaq has made a lasting impact on our community, and your efforts will continue to inspire us moving forward.

Wela'in for your ongoing collaboration and support over the years. It was a pleasure working with you and we wish you all the best in this next chapter.