

\$5.5-Million Resilience Centre Planned for Millbrook

By Maurice Rees

A \$5.5-Million project under the umbrella of the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association (NSNW) will see a Resilience Centre, for indigenous women, built in Millbrook. NSNW contacted municipal council seeking a letter of support. The centre will be the first of its kind in Canada, and will focus on facilitating lifestyles balancing the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical health of Mi'kmaq women, girls, boys, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, and their families.

The resilience centre is also described as a place to provide Indigenous women-led, trauma-informed, culturally appropriate services and supports that infuse traditional healing, medicines, and teachings. Mayor Blair attended a meeting with Zabrina Whitman, Project Manager for the Resiliency Centre provided a verbal report to council at its April monthly meeting, but council suggested a paper copy describing the project be provided to better understand the scope of the project prior to providing a letter of support.

Documentation stated: The NSNW is requesting a letter of support from the Municipality recognizing the central core of Nova Scotia as an opportune location for the Centre. Also, it would recognize the Centre as a vital space to address Calls to Justice from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Inquiry and as a holistic programming and healing space to support the wellbeing for indigenous people and communities.

During the meeting attended by Mayor Blair, the NSNW indicated they are not seeking financial contributions from municipalities. The \$5.5-Million centre would be supported financially through the federal and provincial governments, along with Millbrook and Membertou First Nations.

When completed the centre's service and support offerings will include:

- Safe, confidential, and comfortable office space for the ongoing work of the NSNW whose services support and empower native women and their families. Including, Legal Counsel and support services, Skills and Employment Training Strategy, delivery of the Tripartite Program, the Family Information Liaison Unit, and development of the Indigenous Human Trafficking Prevention Strategy.
- A safe and culturally-appropriate Children's Space dedicated to childcare and afterschool programs, offering art and play therapy. Knowledge Room and Healing Centre which provide flexible multi-use space for programming, art therapy, group sessions, and workshops.
- Makers Space to promote economic opportunity and independence through a teaching kitchen and kitchen gardens, and a daylight space to host crafting workshops for beading, sewing, basketry, and carving.



View to the Resilience Centre from the Dance Courtyard. (Submitted)

- Wellness Centre which provides studio space for fitness classes, dance practices, theatre workshops and community events.
- An accessible and functional space with culturally relevant architecture and high-performance sustainable design, adhering to principles of Netukulimk, striving to be net zero construction, and serving a secondary purpose as a passively survivable emergency hub.
- Income generating, flexible office space available to like-minded Mi'kmaq organizations.



View looking west to the NSNW office wing from Treaty Connector Extension. (Submitted)

Kennedy Elected by Acclamation

Kevin Kennedy who has served as Bible Hill Village Commissioner since 2015 was elected by acclamation following a two week nomination period.


Kennedy will enter his third three year term until June 2024. He has served as Chair since November 2020.

Following the election, at their next meeting on June 15, Commissioners will elect a Chair and Deputy-Chair to lead the Village Commission meetings and will also make committee appointments for the year ahead.



Kevin Kennedy

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Registered Nurse Martha Brown is part of our way forward.

