



Lenore Zann, MP Cumberland-Colchester presents Dr. Donald Julien, Executive Director of The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq with \$1.2-Million for the Mi'kma'wey Debert Cultural Centre to move forward into the architectural design phase that includes the facility's architectural design. (Submitted)

## Mi'kma'wey Debert Cultural Centre receives \$1.2-Million

By Maurice Rees

In a small ceremony on Friday, January 29, Lenore Zann, MP of Cumberland-Colchester County presented Dr. Donald Julien, Executive Director of The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq and Tim Bernard, Executive Director of the Mi'kma'wey Debert Cultural Centre with a \$1.2-Million contribution as the first step of a multi-phase funding approach that will support the cultural infrastructure of the future Centre.

The funding, which comes from the Canadian Cultural Spaces Fund, will support the architectural design of the future Centre, integrating exhibition and site design with a robust community engagement process.

The future Centre will be anchored in Debert, Nova Scotia, where a large group of ancestral sites have been identified over decades of archaeological work. The sites date back to the end of the last glaciation when large ice masses covered Mi'kma'ki and giant beavers the size of small black bears inhabited rivers, lakes, and estuaries. Early excavations included living places, tool-making areas, and a highly influential group of radio-carbon dates that range from 13,000 to 11,000 calendar years ago.

The Centre has completed numerous projects toward the realization of the planned facility, including the development of an Elders' programmatic statement, a feasibility study, a plan for visitor experiences, a master site plan, a functional program, as well as an updated business plan. Ongoing work includes environmental and archaeological assessments, curatorial research, and a capital campaign where every private sector dollar donated will help leverage funding that will make the MDCC a reality. Although a first-time applicant to the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, the MDCC has received funding under the Museums Assistance Program, the Aboriginal Peoples' Program and the Celebration, Commemoration and Learning Program. If interested in donating to this amazing project, visit [www.mikmaweydebert.ca](http://www.mikmaweydebert.ca) to make a contribution through CanadaHelps.

Created in 2002, the Mi'kma'wey Debert Cultural Centre is a First Nations organization located in Truro, Nova Scotia, established to plan, develop and administer a Mi'kmaq cultural centre to be known as the Mi'kma'wey Debert Cultural Centre. The mission of the organization and cultural centre project is to share, protect and explore the stories and lives of our earliest ancestors and those who came after them in Mi'kma'ki (the Mi'kmaq homeland).

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# Could you wait an hour for an ambulance!

*Continued from page 1*  
long patient transfer times at the hospitals can also keep an ambulance tied up in off load delay. Paramedics remain with their patients, managing their care until emergency beds/care is available in hospital.

Deputy Premier Karen Casey was asked recently about the effects of ambulance shortages, especially in rural areas. She responded, "The base locations sites of ambulances and their availability across the province is a topic of discussion that needs to continue. I am advocating for consideration of a base site along the shore, between Truro and Parrsboro. Winter weather conditions and geography are realities that must be considered when providing service in rural Nova Scotia."

Since the start of the pandemic, local Fire Department's Medical First Responders have no longer been attending medical calls which puts rural communities even further at risk. Prior to Covid-19, trained First Responders would often arrive at medical calls before the paramedics, providing critical emergency treatment to stabilize a patient. Now each medical emergency must wait for an ambulance and it could be coming from as far away as Amherst or Pictou...or further!



Prior to Covid-19 restrictions, Medical Fire Responders in local fire brigades were often first on the scene for medical calls, working as team with EHS to give our communities timely access to emergency medical care. Only paramedics, with appropriate PPE, can respond to medical emergencies now. (Harrington Photo)

A family in Bass River was recently left grieving the loss of their wife and mother and they are looking for answers as to why it took so long for help to arrive after placing a call to 911. Local Councillor Tom Taggart says, "Unfortunately there is nothing we can do that will help this family. However, we need our questions answered and we need understanding and to begin the steps to prevent this happening in the future. We need to begin a discussion with local Fire Medical Responders to discuss options like having ambulances stationed in alternate locations like in Debert at Exit 13 or Exit 10, when possible and not always sitting in Truro."

It is scary to think this EHS



A series of tweets made by IUOE Local 727 (the union representing paramedics) using #codecritical have been drawing attention to the shortage of ambulances available throughout the province. (Harrington Photo)

shortage could be one mass casualty incident away from disaster. You can make your voice heard by joining the IUOE Local 727 "Release the Fitch Report" letter writing campaign.

You can find the campaign here: <https://iuoe727.ca/release-the-fitch-report/>

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