



**4 – Pillars Project:  
Community Engagement Session #2**

**Our Mi'gmaq LANGUAGE:  
Our VISION & Goals**

**SUMMARY  
& PROGRESS REPORT**

**As approved by Chief and Council (15 April 2026)**

The following progress report on **the VISION and goals for our Mi'gmaw LANGUAGE** was presented to Chief and Council for our consideration and approval on 15 April 2026.

**We, Chief and Council:**

- **Confirm our strong agreement with the VISION and goals recommended in this report;**
- **Express sincere appreciation for the good contributions of the members who participated;**

Those who contributed to these recommendations made it clear that *this is a collective effort*: the LMG must do its part, and all Listugujewa'q must do theirs.

**We will only succeed in this important work  
by *all working together in a good way.***

We encourage all members to take every opportunity to get engaged when the consultation sessions resume this Spring.

The Chief and Council are committed to support  
this vital 4-Pillars project.

***Wela'lioq***

**to all those who took the time and made the personal effort  
to contribute to these very helpful discussions,  
and to provide strong and thoughtful guidance.**

**Chief and Council**

**15 April 2026**

## The 4 - Pillars Project: *a refresher*

### BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Listuguj is one of 324 First Nations communities that undertook and won a class action lawsuit against the federal government. The action sought funds to help the First Nations communities recover from the serious and enduring impact of colonialism, especially residential schools. The court approved the settlement in 2023.

With the resources from the 4 – Pillars Foundation, which is an Indigenous-led legal trust, we now have additional funds (about \$500K/yr, for 5 years) to undertake very important revitalization and development work that will help us heal and transition to the type of healthy and thriving Mi'gmaw lives that we want and to which we have an inherent right.

To qualify for our share of the funding, we must submit a credible Plan addressing each of the 4 Pillars, *the key elements of our lives that were most impacted by the inter-generational impact of residential schools*. These are:

- ❖ Our Mi'gmaw **culture**;
- ❖ Our Mi'gmaw **language**;
- ❖ Our Mi'gmaw **heritage**;
- ❖ Our **wellness**.

In June 2025, the LMG started its direct engagement process with the community to develop our implementation Plan. We held separate sessions with the general membership, Elders, youth, men and women to get their views on how they would like us to be living in full harmony with our Mi'gmaw *culture*. The members proposed their strong VISION for our Mi'gmaw CULTURE, and the priority actions (goals) we should pursue to achieve our VISION as soon as possible.

In November 2025, we held the second set of engagement sessions to explore the members' aspirations (VISION) and their priority actions (goals) regarding our Mi'gmaw LANGUAGE, with the goals focused on the next 3 - 5 years.

Again, those consultation sessions were with Listugujewa'q from each of the following:

- General Membership;
- Elders;
- Youth from the High School
- Women;
- Men.

Wela'lioq to all who took the time to contribute. The input was, again, very strong and the number of participants who contributed increased significantly from June.

## PROCESS

At this stage in the planning process, the focus is on having the Listugujewa'q determine the VISION that they want to pursue and achieve for the Mi'gmaw LANGUAGE pillar.

**The VISION developed from this exercise will guide *all* related LANGUAGE programming and activities for the LMG.**

Again, each group identified the VISION they want to see for our Mi'gmaw LANGUAGE. They were then asked to identify the top priority goals we should pursue, within the LMG and with all Listugujewa'q, to best enable us to achieve our VISION.

These are outlined below in this document.

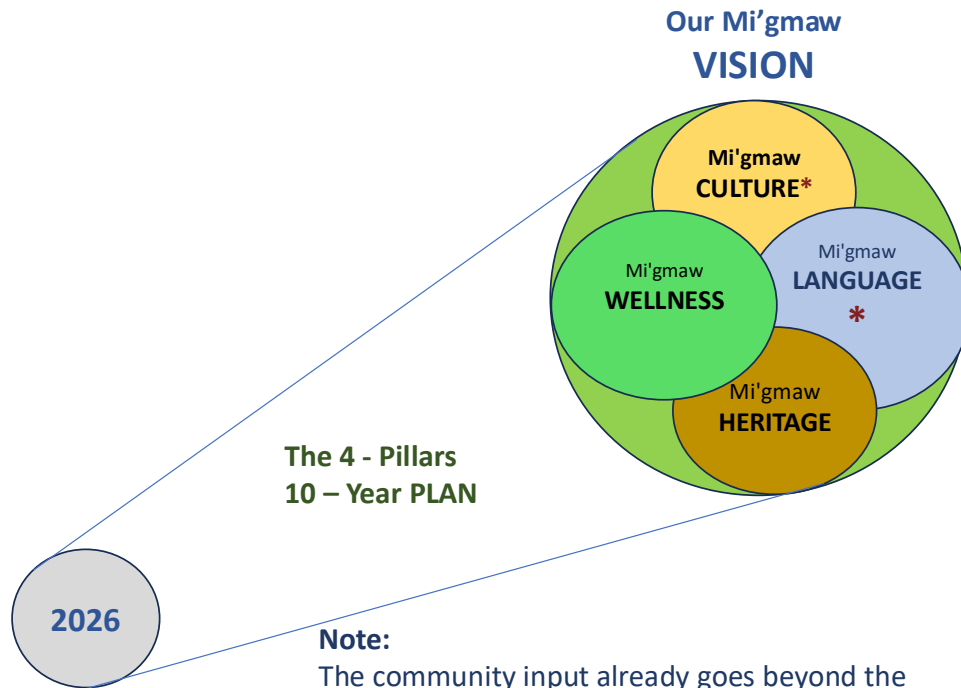
As you know, this is not the first time the LMG has tried to revitalize our Mi'gmaw language. The LMG already has several programs, initiatives and goals in place to address some of the proposed goals, including the Community Comprehensive Plan (CCP). We will carefully re-assess our priorities and all sources of funding to determine which specific goals will be retained, and which will be added, to enable us to successfully progress towards our VISION, on a sustained basis. We will also determine how best to use all available funding, as there are clear guidelines on how the funding from the 4-Pillars Trust can be used.

In this way, we hope to be able to optimize our good work and make real and significant progress towards our VISION for our Mi'gmaw language during the next 3 – 5 years, and beyond.

**As suggested very strongly in the first engagement sessions...**

**There must be a full integration and alignment between the VISION proposed for our Mi'gmaw CULTURE and the VISION proposed for our Mi'gmaw LANGUAGE, which fully embodies, nourishes and expresses our Mi'gmaw CULTURE and identity.**

# Visual representation



**Note:**

The community input already goes beyond the current VISION for Listuguj, as stated in the CCP. The input also exceeds our current LMG priorities. They are truly pivotal “game/life changers”.

## **Our Mi'gmaw LANGUAGE: our VISION**

### **Our VISION for our Mi'gmaw LANGUAGE is one where...**

- **Mi'gmaw is our normal, natural, primary and unifying language spoken and used on an everyday basis by all generations in our homes, day care centres, schools, community, workplaces and institutions.**
- **Mi'gmaw is our language of success: all Mi'gmaw members in our community speak and think in Mi'gmaw as our primary, normal, natural language, with full competence, confidence, respect and pride.**
- **Our language embodies our Mi'gmaw culture (values, principles, teachings, ways of thinking, being and doing) and our identity, and this is a source of personal pride.**
- Our Mi'gmaw language and thinking inform and empower all aspects of our lives, at home, in our institutions (schools, government, businesses and workplaces), and in all our social and traditional Mi'gmaw activities.
- All Listugujewa'q are fully and personally committed to the active use and sustained flourishing of our language.
- Non-Mi'gmaw members or employees in the community learn to speak Mi'gmaw.
- Our language is fully present, both audio and visual, throughout our community and territory, including in our media, and on all public signage, where it is the primary language.
- Our language adapts and evolves with changes in society and technologies.
- Our members also function with full competence in at least one other language (English and/or French) enabling productive and friendly relations and dealings with Canadian society and the changing world.
- Our language and its uses are protected and supported by our Mi'gmaw language laws and policies.

## Our PRIORITY GOALS for our Mi'gmaq LANGUAGE

“Goals” are the most effective “actions” we plan to take during the next 3 -5 years, to help us advance as much as possible towards our VISION for our Mi'gmaq language.

Since we have limited resources, we must prioritize our goals. The participants started by proposing all the goals they believe will help us move along the path towards our VISION for our Mi'gmaq Language.

We then asked them:

- *“If we could only work on three (3) of these goals, which 3 will bring the greatest benefit as we seek to strengthen our Mi'gmaq language and achieve our VISION for our Mi'gmaq language?”*

The members had numerous suggestions and somewhat different rankings on some of the goals. Below are the six (6) top priority goals that were proposed. The many other helpful goals that were proposed will also be worked into the planning process, some of them as direct support goals under one of the six (6) priority goals listed below.

All suggested goals will be kept for reference when the final planning is in place.

**Goal #1 Full access to continuous learning: Provide, full continuous and easy access to effective learning and full learning support adapted to all learning styles and all learning environments, including home, school, work and social, in a mutually supportive and encouraging learning environment.**

### Key considerations

- Requires a comprehensive, integrated, sequenced and coordinated LMG Learning Plan / Map.
- Help foster *Mi'gmaq* homes: children must be born into Mi'gmaq culture and language.
- Requires an improved curriculum at AGS, including a return to full *Mi'gmaq as the primary language of learning* (not “immersion”) at AGS, since Mi'gmaq must become our *normal* language in Listuguj.
- Requires a Comprehensive Language Resource Centre (see Goal #4).
- LMG work sites must facilitate language learning (scheduling, policies, incentives).
- Facilitate the learning opportunities between children, youth and our Elders, including on-the-land learning.
- Use the best language learning technologies, including apps for easy access
- Make all learning *fun!* 😊
- The language, learning and curriculum must adapt to changing uses of language (technological terms etc.).
- We also need to address the negative, reluctant mindset and environment, including “language bullies”; we want a mutually respectful and supportive environment.
- Establish a process for dealing with different dialects.
- Establish a Language Advisory Circle.

### Other Considerations

- Mi'gmaq becomes a requirement for anyone working for LMG (see Goal #5, below).
- Promote, recognize and celebrate speakers.
- Link speaking with economic and financial advancement, including language certification and premiums.
- Establish parent-child learning situations and opportunities, including sending things home to be worked on at home, with parents and family.
- More focus on writing and smaller learning groups.
- Visual labelling in all public buildings and signage.
- Draw on learning expertise of other communities, and share ours.
- Full use of our Mi'gmaq language in our media.
- *A healthy community is foundational / key to inclusive learning.*

### **Goal #2 Optimal engagement with, and learning from, our Elders: Access and document/record the knowledge of our Elders on an urgent basis (aging factor), and facilitate extensive contact between Elders and our youth.**

#### Key Considerations

- a. Optimize the involvement of our Elders in gathering and documenting/recording the required knowledge.
- b. Establish the Elders' Language Council ASAP.
- c. Optimize the use of Elders in teaching situations, especially with children and youth, and on-the-land learning and activities.
- d. Urgency is a key consideration, given the effects of aging.
- e. Protocols need to be established and respected.
- f. Encourage Elders not to show disdain or contempt for non-speakers, or those who may not be learning as fast as others; show more understanding and encouragement.

### **Goal #3 Full use of our language: Optimize/facilitate the full use of our language in all aspects of our everyday living (home, LMG institutions and work sites, community gatherings and events).**

#### Key Considerations

- a. Address the negative, reluctant mindset of many, and do this in a supportive way.
- b. Start with everyone using simple greetings and expressions as much as possible.
- c. Focus on families and creating a normal Mi'gmaq language environment in the homes.
- d. Make it fun. 😊
- e. Encourage learning and use of our language by offering a language premium or incentive, to be provided under LMG Language Laws and Policies (see below).

**Goal #4 A state of the art Mi'gmaq Language Centre: Establish a comprehensive, state of the art Mi'gmaq Language Centre, accessible to all members.**

**Key Considerations**

- a. Must include all relevant archives and historical documents.
- b. Must adapt to the latest technologies to facilitate access.
- c. Must ensure full sovereignty and protection of our data and knowledge.
- d. Elders must be at the core, including on any Advisory Circle.

**Goal #5 An LMG Language Law: Establish an LMG Language Law and policy framework to protect and strengthen our Mi'gmaq language (Language laws, policies, including a language premium or other incentives).**

**Key Considerations**

- a. Model the legal framework on Quebec's language laws.
- b. Make Mi'gmaq the language of work and provide for and facilitate learning on the job.
- c. Ensure our Laws protect our language data and knowledge sovereignty.
- d. Establish a Language Certification process and recognize certified LMG employees with a language premium, and possibly other incentives.
- e. Look at what other First Nations are doing (Kahnawake).

**Goal #6 Foster and support a strong personal commitment: Foster a sustained, strong *personal* commitment among all Listugujewa'q to learn, use and respect our language as our primary, normal, natural language and way of thinking and communicating.**

**Key Considerations**

- a. Address and encourage those with a reluctant, negative mindset.
- b. Make learning as accessible and easy as possible for adult learners (Goal #1).
- c. Foster a strong, positive environment of mutual learning and support, based on sharing and encouragement.
- d. Make it fun! 😊
- e. Keep adapting our language to changes in our changing world.

## Conditions for success

There were no significant changes in the “conditions for success” from the first sessions in June 2025. Many of the conditions for success have been identified in the “key considerations” listed above.

The main concern continues to be the commitment of the LMG, both the members and the Chief and Council, to follow through on this good thinking.

The following “conditions for success” were raised by several participants.

1. **Full political support:** Full understanding by, and commitment from, the political leadership in assuring the full implementation of the best thinking of the Listugujewa’q for this VISION and goals, including sustained support and resources for the Plan *following any change in political or administrative leadership*.
2. **Active, sustained community engagement:** Our members must continue to engage and take *personal* responsibility for the full revitalization of our Mi’gmaq language and culture, starting in our homes.
  - Wherever possible, engage with the learners (students, employees, members) in designing interactive learning processes, based on experiential learning, including good on-the-land learning.
  - We must feel free to express our thoughts, as Listugujewa’q, in a mutually respectful way, without fear of reprisal.
3. **Implementation:** Integrate and align these goals with the current priorities of the affected directorates of the LMG, and pursue their full implementation.
4. **“Walk the talk”:** Show sincere respect for ourselves and others as we all strive to live healthy, capable, and rewarding lives as responsible, caring Listugujewa’q.

## Next steps and suggested timing

Resume the community engagement sessions for Heritage and Wellness. Tentative dates set are May 2026 for Heritage and June 2026 for Wellness.