



**4 – Pillars Project:
Community Engagement Session #3**

**Our Mi'gmaw HERITAGE:
Our VISION & Goals**

“ ‘gsmoqja’tu tlian” (Make it Happen!)

SUMMARY & PROGRESS REPORT

As accepted by Chief and Council

25 August 2026

The following progress report on **the VISION and goals for our Mi'gmaw HERITAGE**, the 3rd Pillar in the 4 - Pillars project, was presented to Chief and Council for its consideration and accepted on 25 August 2026.

We, Chief and Council:

- **Confirm our strong agreement with the VISION and goals for our Mi'gmaw HERITAGE, as proposed by the Listugujewa'q and recommended in this report;**
- **Express sincere appreciation for the good contributions of the members who participated.**

Those who contributed to these recommendations, and the ones for our Mi'gmaw Culture and Language, made it clear that *this is a collective and inclusive effort*: the LMG must do its part, and all Listugujewa'q must do theirs.

Again, we agree that...

**We will only succeed in this important work
by going beyond the talking and
all working together in a good way to “make it happen”.
“ ‘gsmoqja'tu tlian ”**

We encourage all members to take every opportunity to participate whenever any engagement session is undertaken.

The Chief and Council are committed to supporting
this pivotal 4-Pillars project.

Wela'lioq

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

Chief and Council

25 August 2026

The 4 - Pillars Project: *a refresher*

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Listuguj is one of 325 First Nations communities that undertook and won a class action lawsuit against the federal government. The action sought funds to help the First Nation communities recover from the serious and enduring impact of colonialism, especially residential schools. The court approved the settlement for \$2.8 billion in 2023.

With the resources from the 4 – Pillars Society, 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 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 affected by the inter-generational impact of residential schools*. These are:

- ❖ Our Mi'gmaw **culture** (engagement session held in June 2025);
- ❖ Our Mi'gmaw **language** (engagement session held in November 2025);
- ❖ Our Mi'gmaw **heritage** (engagement session held 8 – 10 June 2026);
- ❖ Our **wellness** (which will be held in the last weeks of September or early October 2026).

For each Pillar, the project team held separate sessions with the general membership, and with focused groups of Elders, youth, men and women to get their respective views on the specific Pillar. Some members participated in more than one group, which we appreciate. In each session, the Listugujewa'q proposed their strong VISION for that specific Pillar, and the priority actions (goals) we should pursue to achieve our VISION as soon as possible.

Wela'lioq to all who took the time to contribute.

The input was very strong and provides good guidance for all.

PROCESS

The focus is on having the Listugujewa'q determine the VISION that they want to pursue and achieve for the Mi'gmaw HERITAGE pillar.

The VISION developed from this exercise will guide *all* related programming and activities for the LMG, and the *personal* actions of the Listugujewa'q and our community.

As with the other sessions, each group identified the VISION they want to see for our Mi'gmaw HERITAGE. They were then asked to identify the top priority goals, the most effective actions we should take, 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 HERITAGE. The LMG already has several programs, initiatives and goals in place to address some of the proposed goals, including the Community Comprehensive Plan (CCP). And, there is an obvious and important overlap of the members' views on our Mi'gmaw Heritage with the VISION and goals the members proposed for our Mi'gmaw Culture and Language.

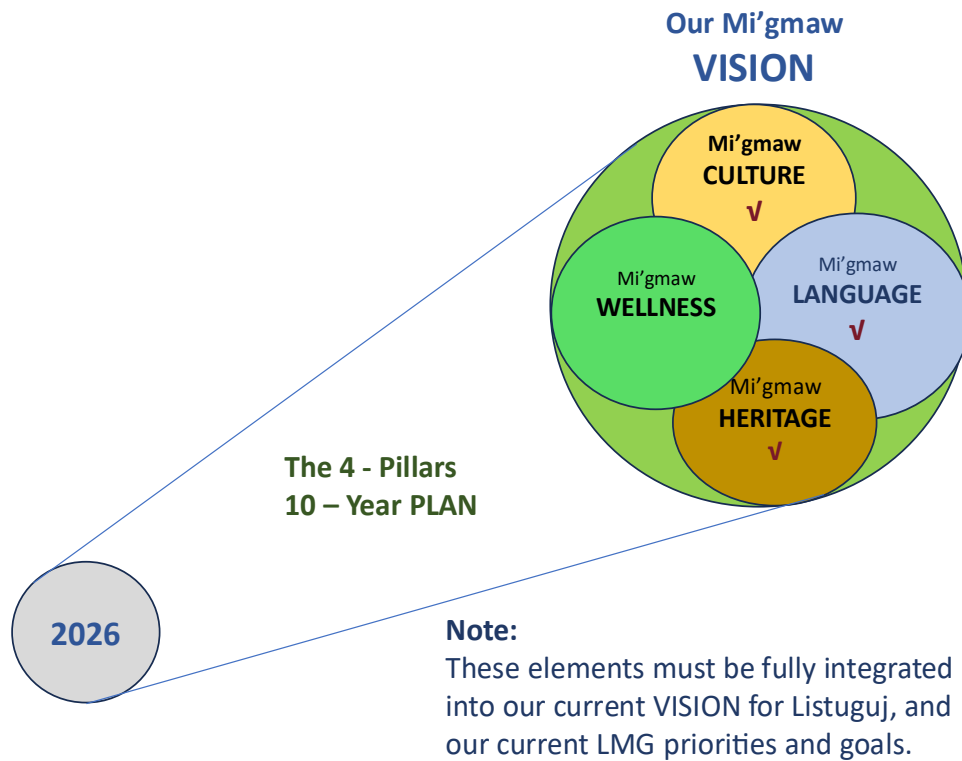
We will carefully re-assess our priorities and all sources of funding to determine which specific goals will be retained, and which will be added, to enable all of us to successfully progress towards our VISION, on a sustained basis. We will also determine how best to use all available funding, as there 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 your good work and make real and significant progress towards our VISION for our Mi'gmaw HERITAGE during the next 3 – 5 years, and beyond.

As suggested very strongly in the engagement sessions...

There must be a full integration and alignment between the VISION proposed for our Mi'gmaw HERITAGE, and the VISION proposed for our Mi'gmaw CULTURE & LANGUAGE.

Visual representation



“ ‘Gsmoqja’tu tlian ’: “Make it happen”

In our engagement sessions addressing our Mi’gmaw heritage, our Elders were determined that we should “get beyond the talking, and ‘*make it happen*’!”

They shared that we have been talking about these types of things for years; there is a generally good understanding of what should be done, and why; the real challenge is to *work together* and “ ‘gsmoqja’tu tlian ’...“make it happen”.

This view was shared with other groups and strongly supported.

The 4-Pillars Coordinating Team recommended that we build on the strong proposal of the Elders, and that ‘gsmoqja’tu tlian becomes the mantra or slogan for the entire project.

Special wela’lioq to Lilian Vicaire-Moffat, Pamela Isaac and Diane Mitchell for providing us with the appropriate Mi’gmaw term: ‘gsmoqja’tu tlian.

Chief and Council have accepted this recommendation, with the added emphasis that *we each accept our personal responsibility* and work together to “*make it happen*”.

‘Gsmoqja’tu tlian
“Make it happen”

Our Mi'gmaw HERITAGE: our VISION

Our VISION for our Mi'gmaw HERITAGE is of we, the Listugujewa'q ...

- ❖ **Moving forward in future generations, living as capable Mi'gmaq, and successfully navigating our way at all times in a constantly changing, increasingly complex world.**
- ❖ **United, guided and fully empowered by our Mi'gmaw heritage, including:**
 - **Our Mi'gmaw teachings, values, traditions, history, stories, knowledges, and ceremonies, with full respect for our Knowledge Keepers;**
 - **Our Mi'gmaw language;**
 - **Our caring, mutually respectful relations among ourselves as a strong, mutually supportive and united Mi'gmaw community;**
 - **Our caring relationship of responsible stewardship over our traditional territories and the natural environment, including the land, waters and all living things, and our related Mi'gmaw practices for the responsible harvesting of our medicines, the fruits of the land and waters, and the animals;**
 - **Our Mi'gmaw title, rights, visibility and governance over our full traditional territory and with our people, including unity and support within the Mi'gmaw Nation, and full respect by other governments for our Treaty Rights and our laws.**
- ❖ **We envision our Mi'gmaw heritage, including the knowledge, understanding, appreciation and related skills, being constantly passed from one generation to the next by our parents, our schools, and our Mi'gmaw organizations, fully supported by our competent and responsible Mi'gmaw government.**
- ❖ **All is under the guidance of our respected Mi'gmaw Knowledge Keepers and embodied in our Mi'gmaw laws.**

NOTE the strong and important alignment between our VISION for our Mi'gmaw Heritage and the VISION already proposed for our Mi'gmaw Culture & Language.

Our PRIORITY GOALS for our Mi'gmaw HERITAGE

“Goals” are the most effective “actions” we plan to take during the next 3 -5 years, to help us advance together, in the best ways, towards our VISION for our Mi'gmaw HERITAGE.

Since we have limited resources, we must prioritize our goals so we know we are always working on the things that will bring us the greatest benefit. The participants started by proposing all the goals they believe will help us move along the path towards our VISION for our Mi'gmaw HERITAGE.

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'gmaw HERITAGE and achieve our VISION for our Mi'gmaw HERITAGE?”*

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Several of these goals, including the goal for a “drug-free community”, have been raised at each session before, and in other community engagement sessions during 2026 with LCSSD.

The several 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.

‘Gsmoqja’tu tlian

“Make it happen!”

Goal #1: KNOW & LIVE OUR MI'GMAW HERITAGE

Strengthen all key elements of our Mi'gmaw heritage, primarily our culture and language, to be our normal and empowering way of life, in a well-planned and coordinated way, for current and future proud and capable generations of Mi'gmaq.

This includes:

- a. Living according to our Mi'gmaw values and the Seven Sacred Teachings;
- b. Implementing the 4 Pillars goals for our Mi'gmaw Culture and Language;
- c. Protecting our environment, and fully respecting our LMG regulations, including for salmon fishing.

NOTE: The Youth and Women are very concerned that we fully respect our regulations to protect the salmon, *at this crucial time when their survival is at stake.*

Goal #2: PASS ON OUR HERITAGE (1)

Update our curriculum and our ways of learning and practicing our Mi'gmaw knowledge and ways of being, including our Mi'gmaw teachings, values, traditions, histories and stories, relationships with the land. This would apply to our curriculum for both:

- a. Our Mi'gmaw schools;
- b. Activities and learning on the land and waters.

NOTE: Our schools must be Mi'gmaw, with Mi'gmaw as the *normal* language, not as "immersion".

Goal #3: PASS ON OUR HERITAGE (2)

Strengthen the ways we benefit from our Mi'gmaw Knowledge Keepers, especially mentoring our Youth, to fully ensure the ongoing transfer of our Mi'gmaw knowledge, histories and stories, skills, teachings, ceremonies, including on the land.

Goal #4: HEAL AND UNITE THE COMMUNITY, IN GOOD MI'GMAW WAYS (1)

Heal and unite the community (from inter-generational trauma), in part by pursuing the above. This includes:

- a. Living by our values, especially mutual respect, consistent with our Seven Sacred Teachings;
- b. Addressing addictions (a community free of drugs, gambling and gaming) in an effective and responsible way.

NOTE: The request for a drug / addictions-free community is persistent in all groups, and particularly strong from the *youth.*

Goal #5: HEAL AND UNITE THE COMMUNITY, IN GOOD MI'GMAW WAYS (2)

Take *personal* responsibility for doing our part, by coming together, as a Mi'gmaw *community*, where we all take responsibility for the wellbeing of each other.

- This learning and ongoing process must start in our homes. It will require better education and support for parents.

Goal #6: MI'GMAW HERITAGE & GOVERNANCE

Implement *transparent, accountable* Mi'gmaw governance to affirm, protect and exercise our un-surrendered Mi'gmaw sovereignty, rights and visibility throughout our territory, with sustained community engagement.

Conditions for success

As stated above, the one significant, additional suggestion regarding “conditions for success” to support the implementation of the goals from the 4 Pillars project was:

‘Gsmoqja’tu tlian: “Let’s make it happen!”

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

The following “conditions for success” continue to apply.

- 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 their VISION and goals, including sustained support and resources for the Plan *following any change in political or administrative leadership.*

- We must see Chief and Council actively involved in community events, including these engagement sessions, as Chief and Council.

NOTE: As stated at the outset, Chief and Council are committed to this work.

- 2. Active, sustained *community* and *personal* engagement:** Our members must continue to engage and take *personal* responsibility for the full revitalization of our Mi’gmaq HERITAGE, culture and language, *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, in a way that fosters understanding and unity*, 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 Mi’gmaq lives as responsible, caring L’nu.

Next steps and suggested timing

Complete the final the community engagement session for our Mi’gmaq WELLNESS, to take place in the last weeks of September or in October 2026.

Integrate the proposed goals from the first three (3) Pillars into the planning for the appropriate LMG Directorates, and make regular progress reports to the Listugujewa’q.

‘Gsmoqja’tu tlian: “Make it happen!”