

Message from the Chief

Happy New Year to all, it's my hope that everybody will have a year filled with good health and that good health will be with each of you for many years to come.

There have been many calls and emails from concerned applicants regarding the January 31, 2014 deadline date to provide additional supporting documentation to their file for enrolment into the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band. **The date for submitting additional documentation has now been extended until February 10, 2014,** I realize this is not a huge extension and I sympathize with those who feel more time is required. In mid-December the FNI put forward the idea of an extension to the Jan 31, 2014 deadline to Canada. After lengthy discussion in the New Year between both parties of the agreement the maximum extension that was obtainable by the FNI was the 10 days.

I urge those applicants who are providing additional documentation to be as clear as possible with the additional documentation on self-identification and community acceptance and ensure that each piece of documentation has your file number on it, this is the number that is located the top right hand corner of the letter that was sent to you by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development in November 2013. Do not forget to provide as much information as you have to explain how the additional documentation supports your claim for community acceptance in your **own sworn declaration** and have it signed before a Commissioner of Oaths or a Notary of Public or other officer authorized to take an oath in the jurisdiction.

For many it will be necessary to review the four scenarios which I provided in an earlier message to help understand the different categories applicants may fall within as they prepare their documentation. In addition the frequently asked questions should also be reviewed on the Qalipu website as well as on the website of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.