

Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey Request for Proposals to Conduct a Language Study in Mi'kmaw Communities in Nova Scotia

Deadline: March 15, 2024, 4:30 p.m. AST

Introduction

Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey (MK) is seeking proposals from consultants/firms to work in conjunction with our Language & Culture Department to develop a culturally appropriate research survey to collect data surrounding the current state of the Mi'kmaw language in Nova Scotia, to identify gaps in supports.

It is hoped that the survey tool would be ready no later than May 31, 2024 in order to commence the data collection June 1st, 2024.

MK encourages all enquiries with respect to the expectations and/or scope of work sought through this proposal by email to Blaire Gould (blaire@kinu.ca). All enquiries will receive a response. Proposals are invited, in particular, from consultants/firms with first nations knowledge and expertise. The consultant or firm will be selected for this project based on criteria stated in Section 5. All proposals received by 4:30 p.m. AST on March 15th, 2024 will receive full consideration. Please submit proposals to Justine Paul, Director of Human Resources , at justine@kinu.ca

RFP Process

It is expected that one consultant/firm will be selected as a result of the RFP, although MK is under no obligation to award a contract as a result of the selection process. Based on the proposals received the selection committee will select consultants/firms to be interviewed. As a result of those interviews the top-rated consultant/firm will be selected for contract negotiations.

Background

Background information on the MK can be found at www.kinu.ca

MK has received two years' funding under Section 8 and 9 of the Indigenous Languages Act. MK believes that at the time of birth, each Mi'kmaw child has a right to be spoken to and greeted in the Mi'kmaw language. Consistent with the call to action by the Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC), MK intends to bring to life the **Mi'kmaq Language Act** enacted October 1, 2022. By developing and implementing community based models which meet the educational needs and priorities of each community, we can foster, among First Nations and non-First Nations, a positive attitude

towards, and accurate beliefs and positive values about First Nations languages so that multilingualism becomes a valued part of Canadian society. By facilitating the sharing of resources and ideas, MK can nurture relationships that already exist provincially as well as new relationships forged across Canada.

The initial phase will include research and collection of data surrounding the current state of the Mi'kmaw language, similarities between communities will be discovered as well as past successes and challenges. It is hoped that MK will serve as a central resource bank to support collaboration with communities and save their time by avoiding the duplication of work.

Scope of Service

The development of a culturally appropriate survey tool that will collect data surrounding the current status of the Mi'kmaw language, similarities between communities, past successes, and challenges. This information will support the work of the Language and Culture Team in the development of language plans for each of the 13 communities in Nova Scotia. The scope of this RFP includes both the development of the survey tool, and recommendations on the most effective methodology to administer the tool to maximize reach within our 13 communities. The survey tool is expected to:

- ascertain the status of the language within each community;
- allow us to assess and research the language status;
 - to document current human, cultural, institutional, technical, material and financial resources that support the Mi'kmaw language;
 - assess the status of the language, the number of speakers in each community, the degree of fluency and community attitudes towards language revitalization and current language usage;
- provide for method for consultation with community stakeholders;
- include a language assessment component, as well as attitudes towards the Mi'kmaw language and language learning interests.

The outcome of the survey will allow MK to know the status of the Mi'kmaw language across the 13 Mi'kmaw communities in Nova Scotia.

Report Review

The consultant/firm will prepare a survey for approval by the Executive Director of MK in order to administer the survey starting May 2024.

Proposal Submission

Please include with your submission:

1. Cover letter of transmittal.
2. Legal name of the consultant/firm, address, phone, fax, and email address, year the firm was established, and type of business.
3. An organization chart indicating roles of all individuals and firms involved in this project, as appropriate. Include brief resumes for all individuals identifying their qualifications and experience.
4. An example of an employee engagement survey, and summary of results.
5. A clear articulation to the firm's approach to be used in this project or a sample of a survey used in other projects.
6. Qualifications, related experience, and references.
7. Proposed scope of work and plan to accomplish the work, including a timeline showing completion dates for all segments of work.
8. Fee schedule and proposed fee to accomplish the work.

Please submit your proposal to: justine@kinu.ca