



## Concept Note

### Explore the Bras d'Or

### Wjinene'n Pitu'poq<sup>1</sup>

The Bras D'or Lakes are a special place to those who know them. Explore the Bras D'or or in Mi'kmaw, Wjinene'n Pitu'poq which translates to “get to know the Bras D'or Lakes” is a partnership between the Bras D'or Lakes Biosphere and the Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI) created to bring together existing activities and organize some new activities on and around the lakes for two weeks over the summer of 2021 (July 24<sup>th</sup> - August 8<sup>th</sup>).

Through this initiative local activities such as sail boat races, hiking, bicycling as well as opportunities to collect important data on the state of the lakes will be combined and programmed, thus enhancing the work that is already being done by community organizations and creating an event that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Bringing to together Mi'kmaw and non-Indigenous communities and events, as well as promoting stewardship of the lakes is critical to the success of this event in being a unique community building exercise as well as setting the stage for an annual event that promotes sustainable economic development and eco-tourism opportunities. The event will provide a centralized website, social media and coordination to ensure that existing efforts at the community level are maximized. A coordinator of the event will be hired by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Potential Activities include and are not limited to:**

- Shoreline cleanups
- Kayaking and eelgrass mapping
- Water quality monitoring (Bras D'or Watch)

---

<sup>1</sup> Mi'kmaw pronunciation: wGee-neigh-neighnN Bee-du-bow-og and translation: Get to know the Bras d'Or Lakes

- Mi'kmaw pronunciation: wGee-neigh-neighnN Bee-du-bow-og and translation: Get to know the Bras d'Or Lakes Coastal watch
- Bird counts
- Trail building / opening / hiking
- Coastal water trail adventure / Great Trail
- Coastal bicycle rides
- Near shore clean up with scuba divers
- Other activities?

**Partners currently engaged on Explore the Bras D'or:** BLBRA, UINR, CEPI, CEPI Youth, Ben Eoin Marina, Oceans North, Destination Cape Breton, Great Trail through Hike Nova Scotia (NS Trails Federation),

**Potential Additional Partners:** Velo Cape Breton, St. Peter's Marina, Baddeck Marine, Marble Mountain, Iona, Grand Narrows (additional municipalities, towns and Mi'kmaw communities), The Big Swim, Private Sector, CBU (Bras D'or Institute), Cape Breton Environmental Association.

**Coordination:** The BLBA and CEPI have created a steering committee for this event and will be hiring a coordinator. All inquiries may be sent to [explorethebrasdor@gmail.com](mailto:explorethebrasdor@gmail.com).