



### Creation of the Reserves on PEI:

In 1764-1766, Capt Samuel Holland was tasked with surveying Prince Edward Island. He divided the land into 67 Lots, but some of the islands off the coast of PEI including Lennox Island, were not attached to the lots. Also, the Acadians and Mi'kmaq living on PEI not consulted. In 1772, Lennox Island was attached to Lot 12 and given to James Montgomery, who allowed the Mi'kmaq to live there.

By 1800, it was realized there was no land left for the Mi'kmaq to continue their traditional way of life. The year 1808, brought about a petition from the “Indians, inhabitants of Lennox Island” to the PEI government requesting them to purchase Lennox Island for them. Thirty years would pass, and then a petition was sent from Chief Thomas Labone of the Micmac Tribe of Indians to the Queen and the PEI Legislature, not so subtly reminding them of their former, and better, association with French. This spurred a flurry of activity in the 1840's, as several areas of land were suggested and discarded. David Stewart, owner of Lennox Island, was approached to sell the island to the PEI government for the Mi'kmaq, but he asked for far too much money for the small area of land.

1846 saw the settlement of 204 acres of land upon six Mi'kmaq families residing on the land owned by Charles Worrell, “a free gift of a portion of the lands of his estate to certain Indians, and their descendents.” Located in Lot 40, the entire estate, including the land gifted to the Mi'kmaq, was subsequently purchased by the Government of PEI and sold to various individuals.

Other land, in Lots 15 and 55, was purchased for the Mi'kmaq in 1852. On Lot 55, the land was poor, and subsequently, was not used by the Mi'kmaq. Lot 15's land was very good, and was quickly taken over by “white, Irish squatters.” On the other hand, land was found on the East side of the Charlottetown Harbour; 10 acres of Ordnance Land was loaned by the War Department for the use of eleven Mi'kmaq families. This “Ordnance Reserve” was used extensively, with the resident Mi'kmaq families building a road and planting fields of potatoes.

During this time, petitions regarding the Worrell estate were sent by members of the Mi'kmaq community, Indian Commissioners, Theophilus Stewart and Henry Palmer, and

other concerned citizens to rectify this situation. In the words of the Attorney General, it would not be “fair to those who purchased the land to be robbed of it,” therefore an alternative area of land was suggested – 189 acres in Lot 39, ninety of which was barren. This was granted in 1859, and becomes the Morell Reserve, but brought about another problem. Settlers in adjoining land refused the Mi'kmaq access to the property, denying an access road be built.

In the 1860's, Indian Commissioner Theophilus Stewart urged PEI government for more land, a place for “Indians who have no land to call their own,” but received only negative replies. This time period also brought the recommendation by Stewart to sell the Reserves on Lots 15 and 55, with the money from the sale to be used to purchase other land for the Mi'kmaq. The sale proceeded in 1866, but no other land was purchased.

1866 also brought about another blow to Mi'kmaq land possession. The “Ordnance Reserve” land was seized by the government of PEI and a Fever Hospital was placed upon the exact 10 acres used by the Mi'kmaq.

In desperation, Stewart approached the Aborigines Protection Society in London, England to purchase Lennox Island for the Mi'kmaq. Struck with the idea, the Society immediately began a subscription to raise money to purchase the island. It was eventually purchased in 1870 by the Society for the “use of the Aboriginal Population of Prince Edward Island,” for £400. The title to the land would be held by a board of trustees, one of whom was PEI Indian Commissioner, Theophilus Stewart.

In 1873, PEI joined Confederation, and responsibility for the Mi'kmaq of PEI was transferred to Ottawa. Stewart was appointed Visiting Superintendent in charge of the Mi'kmaq of PEI for the federal government. Lennox Island also gained the title of “Special Reserve” and fell under the direction of Ottawa, as well.

An Indian Agent Report sent to the Department of the Interior in 1875, by Theophilus Stewart mentions six Mi'kmaq families encamped for the last few years near Warren Farm, in the Rocky Point area. The families have requested this become a “permanent abode,” with the purchase of the land for them.

Over the next few years, petitions were also received from Stewart regarding the loss of land and lack of access to the Morell Reserve, finally leading to an Order-in-Council in 1879 granting 15 additional acres. As well, in 1880 a road is finally approved to provide access to the Reserve. By this year, it is also noted in J.H. Meacham & Co.'s *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Province of Prince Edward Island*, an allotment of land titled "Dominion Gov't for Indians" on Lot 36. This eventually becomes known as the "Scotchfort Reserve." It is also listed in the Indian Lands Registry Files as being a "pre-Confederation Reserve."

By 1912, the trustees for Lennox Island have either died or are very elderly. The land reverts to the Crown (King George V) and becomes known as an "Ordinary Reserve." This year also saw a petition filed by Alice Mitchell stating that she, her father, her grandfather and her great-grandfather lived off the lands in Rocky Point. She says, "Indians never off that place." In 1913, the fourth and final Reserve is created when three acres of land at Rocky Point are sold to the Crown to become the Rocky Point Reserve.



Mi'kmaq  
Confederacy of  
Prince Edward Island