



# Marine Biomass Innovation (MBI) Project Update



*MBI applies a novel integrated approach for repurposing marine biomass to improve economic sustainability of Mi'kmaq communities in Western Newfoundland*

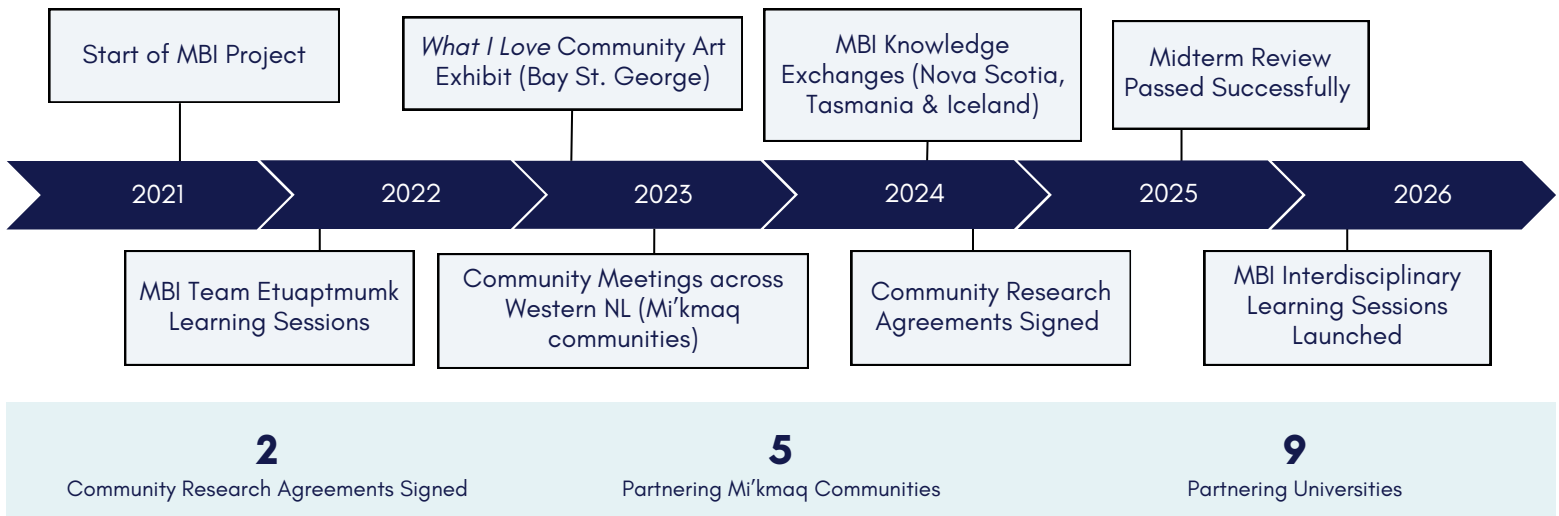
## Project Overview

The Marine Biomass Innovation (MBI) project brings together researchers, students, and partners to explore sustainable and community-relevant approaches to marine research, innovation, and knowledge sharing in Newfoundland and Labrador. The project also examines possible uses of marine biomass, including applications related to food, food production, and natural health products, while supporting community learning and regional development.

- Student training and community capacity building are central parts of MBI's approach.
- The project has involved work with 40 communities across the Bay St George and Bay of Islands regions of western Ktaqmkuk.



Bay of Islands



## Training and Capacity Building

The MBI Project is creating training and development opportunities for students, early career researchers, and project team members. This includes community, graduate and undergraduate learning opportunities, interdisciplinary collaboration, and training connected to marine research, policy, and community-engaged practice. MBI has also developed a Trainee Network that brings together students, postdoctoral fellows, and community-based researchers to support shared learning, collaboration, and project objectives across work packages.

- Almost 80 trainees with diverse identities and lived experiences
- 19 Indigenous students, trainees, staff, and researchers
- Mandatory OCAP® training for all team members
- Support for early career researchers through collaboration, and training opportunities



Memorial University, Grenfell Campus & St. John's



## Researchers in Community

MBI researchers are investigating the potential applications of marine biomass in natural health products, foods, and food production, while prioritizing direct, community-based engagement. Across Western Newfoundland, researchers work closely with Mi'kmaq partners, including Benoit First Nation, Benoit's Cove Indian Band, Flat Bay Band, St. George's Indian Band, and Three Rivers Mi'kmaq Band, and also participate in regional gatherings and Indigenous-led events.

Engagement also occurs through public events such as the Bay St. George Powwow, Benoit First Nation Mawio'mi, and Elmastukwek Mawio'mi, where MBI team members share research and engage in dialogue with community members.

This work supports not only research, but also dialogue, relationship building, and more grounded, community-based approaches. These are ongoing efforts guided by trust, community priorities, and Indigenous research principles, including Etuaptmuk (Two-Eyed Seeing).



## Knowledge Mobilization

MBI has continued to share research and project learning through community-facing and academic channels, including presentations, reports, workshops, symposia, school visits, graduate research dissemination, and other forms of exchange. Public outputs, including publications and presentations, help illustrate the project's activities and how its research has been connected to community relevance. This community update is part of that broader effort to communicate clearly about the project and its ongoing work.

## MBI Project Outputs

- Over 500 community members engaged through meetings, Mawio'mi, public events, and outreach activities
- 8 community symposia & 10 School Visits
- 11 peer-reviewed publications
- More than 20 conference presentations
- Over 30 research presentations to community
- Master's and PhD thesis work progressed, with some completions during the reporting period.



## Looking ahead: Planned next steps

- Continued collaboration and engagement with communities and organizations
- Further student and early career researcher training opportunities
- Sharing findings through publications, reports, presentations, and community-facing materials
- Continuing trainee-led networking and peer learning opportunities across the MBI network
- MBI researchers continue to investigate marine biomass applications in natural health products, foods, and food production to support community learning and regional development.
- MBI will launch its bi-monthly newsletter in June 2026 at [www.mbiproject.ca](http://www.mbiproject.ca)

