The Mi’kmaq Grand Council is the traditional political structure of the peoples living in Mi’kma’ki. Each of the seven Districts of Mi’kma’ki has a District Chief who was elected from the tribal Chiefs from that District. One of the District Chiefs was appointed Grand Chief.

The Eight Pointed Star is an adaptation of the original Seven Pointed Star which was the historical emblem of the Seven Districts of the Mi’kmaq nation. The Eighth point was added to represent the Crown after the signing of treaties with Britain.

The Grand Council Medals were instated in 1842 by Joseph Howe included in the “Act for the Instruction and Permanent Settlement of Indians” where, amongst other agreements, it states that the Chief and Keptins (captains) are to receive one medal each, every 3 years.

The Sante’ Mawio’mi Flag or Grand Council Flag, is commonly referred to as the Mi’kmaw Nation Flag. It has a White background, Red Cross, Sun, and Moon.

- **Wape’k** (White) - Denotes the purity of Creation.
- **Mekwe’k Klujjiewey** (Red Cross) - Mankind and Infinity (four directions).
- **Na’ku’set** (Sun) - Forces of the day.
- **Tepknuset** (Moon) - Forces of the night.

Wampum Belts were used for protocol purposes of the Grand Council. It was the duty of a Grand Council member known as the Pu’tus—or Keeper of the Belt—to use the Belts as a journal of the discussions of previous meetings and missions.
