

Greens, natives share concerns, May says

By MARY ELLEN MacINTYRE Truro Bureau

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TRURO — Like politicians of old, the leader of the federal Green party hopped off a train Sunday afternoon into the welcoming arms of her supporters.

"The election campaign has already started," said Elizabeth May, smiling and laughing with the handful of supporters who showed up to greet the popular activist and leader.

It was her second stop on a three-day tour of the Maritimes that began with a train station rally in Moncton on Sunday morning.

"I'll be going to Cape Breton for Thanksgiving and then to Halifax for a celebration at the Granite Brewery on Monday night," said the former head of the Sierra Club of Canada.

Ms. May met with Chief Lawrence Paul of the Millbrook First Nation before heading to Cape Breton later in the day.

"The Green party is aligned with First Nations values and we want to reach out to First Nations communities across the country — there are a number of issues that concern us all," she said.

In recent media reports, Chief Paul took Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice to task for not yet visiting First Nations communities in Atlantic Canada and the Conservative government in general for cutting a \$10.8-million program to help native people stop smoking.

"And native leaders across the country are still angry about the Kelowna accord being cast aside," Mr. Paul said earlier in the day.

The \$5-billion agreement was worked out with native leaders, former prime minister Paul Martin and the 10 premiers prior to the last general election. When Stephen Harper was elected, he decided to withdraw federal government support for the agreement.

Ms. May said the Green party is very concerned about what happened to the Kelowna accord.

"There are many, many issues to address," she said.

Ms. May will be giving a talk on family and community at Acadia University in Wolfville on Tuesday afternoon. In the evening, she will give a keynote address at Dalhousie University on women in politics.

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