



October 17, 2020

## **MSIFN ISSUES STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE MI'KMAQ**

SCUGOG – Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN) affirm our solidarity with the Mi'kmaq people of Nova Scotia. The declaration of a state of emergency by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs was the result of too long a wait for legislative change that would honour the treaties, Section 35 of the constitution, the Supreme Court Marshall Decision, and the respect of the Mi'kmaq peoples' entitlement to their waters.

The Mi'kmaq have a right to earn a living. The Mi'kmaq are stewards of the land and water, and have never surrendered their land to the government. We stand behind Mi'kmaw fishermen in their continued assertions of their sovereign treaty rights, their rights to use land in traditional and sustainable ways, and their rights to subsistence as individuals and communities. Their pursuit helps Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous peoples alike as it supports the sustainability of our oceans – this is critical to ensure that there will be enough resources for generations. The fiduciary duties owed to the Mi'kmaq require that commercial fisheries not have a monopoly over the needs of the Mi'kmaq to feed and economically sustain their communities.

Non-Indigenous fishermen are reported as attempting to stymie the Mi'kmaq through violence, disregarding that it is the constitutionally-protected right of the Mi'kmaq to use the land for the purpose of their livelihoods. We call upon the local non-Indigenous fisherman to let cooler heads prevail and refrain from violence. We ask you to lead by example and bring a stop to the racism and violence that is occurring against the Mi'kmaq peoples within Mi'kmaq territory.

We call upon the federal government to assess the situation with fairness. We call upon the RCMP to properly protect the Mi'kmaq from violence and prevent the privilege of one segment of people over another. And we call upon the federal government, in direct support of Indigenous peoples, to intervene and uphold the rule of law and constitutionally protected rights of the Mi'kmaq peoples of Nova Scotia.

We stand in solidarity with them and hope you will join us in educating your families and communities about the raids in Mi'kma'ki (Atlantic Canada). Please ensure that this important topic stays alive in your conversations within your homes and workspaces.

For more information, this document is helpful:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u\\_LF\\_bCFBbSijzqJgHNh4-MfpYz0hfdv/view?fbclid=IwAR0h-ohQh7D8U0w\\_80EnAoI0OUT1GpNrRBNkh1TiKIQSZXXsT6fQJbdcrlo](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_LF_bCFBbSijzqJgHNh4-MfpYz0hfdv/view?fbclid=IwAR0h-ohQh7D8U0w_80EnAoI0OUT1GpNrRBNkh1TiKIQSZXXsT6fQJbdcrlo)

Miigwetch,  
Chief Kelly LaRocca, Councillor Laura Colwell, and Councillor Jamie Coons