



## **Miramichi City Council Adopts Peace and Friendship Policy – Permanently Raises Mi'kmaq Flag in City Hall**

**Miramichi, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024** – Today marks a significant day in the City of Miramichi as Mayor Adam Lordon and Indigenous leaders gather for the official signing ceremony and flag raising to commemorate the adoption of the Peace and Friendship Policy. This significant event underscores the city's commitment to reconciliation and mutual respect between Indigenous peoples and the broader community.

The Peace and Friendship Policy, effective since December 19, 2023, formalizes the City's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation with the three Indigenous communities of Esgeoopetitj, Natoaganeg, and Metepenagiag First Nations. The policy is the result of the ongoing collaboration between the City of Miramichi and Natoaganeg First Nation's Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) which began in March. Rooted in the 2019 Peace and Friendship Accord, this policy aims to establish a framework for cooperation and mutual understanding.

The signing ceremony, held inside City Hall, symbolizes the formal adoption of the Peace and Friendship Policy by Mayor Adam Lordon and Indigenous leaders. Following this, a permanent Mi'kmaq flag will be raised inside the Council Chambers, signifying the city's commitment to Indigenous representation and cultural inclusion.

Adam Lordon said “it is important not just to do reconciliation in words, but in actions. We're hoping that this will become a policy that other communities across the province and across the country will want to replicate into their own communities. I am proud of getting to this moment and I am filled with hope and optimism. This is certainly a day that we will remember and be thankful for, for a long time.”

Subsequently, a second Mi'kmaq flag will be raised outside at the QE Park, serving as a visible reminder of the city's dedication to reconciliation and partnership with Indigenous communities.

Chief Ginnish expressed his gratitude stating "The 94 calls have been proclaimed, but we still get a lot of resistance, but we know the difference. We work with those partners that respect history and want to know the history. We are more than willing to share that. We must continue to work to heal our relationship, to implement the TRC calls to action and to heal the historic wrongs. I look forward to continuing the good work that we have been able to make happen to this point. Wela'lioq – Thank you.”

The City of Miramichi reaffirms its commitment to reconciliation by implementing Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action relevant to municipalities. This includes supporting Indigenous language, culture, and participation, as well as ensuring the acknowledgment of Indigenous lands and treaties. As part of ongoing efforts, the city will continue to engage in cultural awareness training, inclusive partnerships, and advocacy for workforce and procurement opportunities for Indigenous peoples.

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