



# Nignen Women's Shelter

## Media Advisory

### FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

#### NATOAGANEG FIRST NATION – GRAND OPENING OF NIGNEN WOMEN'S SHELTER

**Natoaganeg, Mi'kma'ki** — Natoaganeg First Nation and Nignen Women's Shelter invite you their Grand Opening Ceremony on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., located at 36 A Micmac Road, Natoaganeg First Nation.

Natoaganeg First Nation and the Nignen Women's Shelter invite media to attend the grand opening of the Nignen Women's Shelter. In attendance will be Anita Boyle - Director of Nignen Women's Shelter, Chief George Ginnish – Natoaganeg First Nation, Tyler Patles - North Shore Micmac Tribal Council, Chief Joanna Bernard - Interim National Chief, Honourable Brenda Murphy - Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, Karen Marcus - Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation, Jenica Atwin - Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indigenous Services and Geoff Cole – Regional Director General, Indigenous Services Canada.

Speakers will be available for media interviews following the official opening.

#### To schedule an interview, please contact:

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##### **Nignen Women's Shelter**

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# Nignen Women's Shelter

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nignen Women's Shelter: A beacon of hope for Indigenous women, and children within New Brunswick

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Natoaganeg, Mi'kma'ki** – The Nignen Women's Shelter celebrates its grand opening November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This milestone marks a significant step towards fostering a safer and more supportive community for Indigenous women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, and their children. Nignen will be the first women's and 2SLGBTQQIA+ shelter to operate in an Indigenous community in New Brunswick

Nignen is a woman and 2SLGBTQQIA+-centered facility that operates on the principles of safety and trauma-informed care. It warmly welcomes Indigenous women, their children and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples from across New Brunswick who are seeking refuge from domestic violence. The shelter will open its doors to residents in the new year.

The shelter not only offers a secure space for Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples across the province but also integrates crucial services to enhance the overall welfare of its residents. With a focus on their health and thriving, Nignen residents can access services with minimal waiting periods. This innovative space exemplifies a unique delivery model—a community wrap-around approach that reflects a dedication to safety, commitment, and confidentiality.

### Key Features:

**Elder Services:** Nignen acknowledges the significance of cultural support and will provide the weekly services of an Elder for those using its services.

**Trauma-Informed Facility:** Rooted in compassion, Nignen is a trauma-informed, woman and 2SLGBTQQIA+-centered facility designed to empower individuals on their journey to healing.

**Community Wrap-Around Model:** Nignen's unique model ensures a comprehensive, community-driven approach to support residents in their healing journey.

**Family-Centered Living Quarters:** Focused on empowerment, Nignen provides four two-bedroom suites, allowing families to stay together to foster a sense of stability and continuity.

**Children's Programs and Playground:** Recognizing the unique needs of families, Nignen features children's programs and indoor/outdoor playgrounds to create a supportive environment.



***On-Site Health Center:*** Nignen is in proximity to Natoaganeg's health centre. Residents will also have access to Mawlugutineg Mental wellness and the Rising Sun Treatment centre.

***Upcoming Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE):*** Nignen is actively working on providing a sexual assault program within the facility, further expanding the range of vital services.

***Energy Efficiency:*** Committed to sustainability, Nignen boasts a 100-kW photovoltaic solar system, and energy efficiency upgrades to the building envelope, and electrical and mechanical systems. As a result, the building is 40% more energy efficient than the minimum requirements of the 2020 National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings.

***Emergency Back-up Power Capabilities:*** Nignen is equipped with a standby diesel generator that can support the full energy demand of the building. This will ensure that services and building operations will not be interrupted in the case of a power outage.

Nignen expresses gratitude to Chief and Council for spearheading this crucial initiative. Collaboration with valued partners including Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council (NSMTC), Acadia Construction, and exp. Consultants has showcased the strength of communal efforts in addressing societal challenges.

On behalf of Council, Staff and Community, Chief George Ginnish states; " Natoaganeg is honoured to be home to the Nignen Emergency Shelter for Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ escaping family violence. Congratulations to our Director Anita Boyle, and staff for who have been working to prepare for clients in the new year. We express our sincere appreciation to Acadian Construction and exp. Consultants for their outstanding design, craftsmanship, and timely completion. We eagerly anticipate the Grand Opening on November 30th, 2023. Wela'liek."

### **About Natoaganeg**

Natoaganeg First Nation is a Mi'kmaq community located on the Miramichi River in northern New Brunswick. It is comprised of three reserves, including Eel Ground #2, Big Hole Tract #8, and Renous #12. The community has a rich history and culture, with roots dating back thousands of years. Natoaganeg First Nation is a thriving community, with a strong sense of identity and a commitment to their cultural traditions.

### **For More Information:**

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