



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Governor General Mary Simon Highlights Conservation Efforts During a Visit to Natoaganeg, Mi'kma'ki**

**Natoaganeg Mi'kma'ki – June 6th, 2024**, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, accompanied by Mr. Whit Fraser, embarked on her first official visit to New Brunswick. The visit to Natoaganeg First Nation in Mi'kma'ki, consisted of Governor General Mary Simon engaging with community leaders and environmental stewards to discuss critical conservation efforts in the region.

Governor General Mary Simon's visit to Natoaganeg First Nation underscored her commitment to advancing reconciliation, preserving Canada's natural heritage, and supporting Indigenous communities. Located on the Miramichi River, one of Canada's most productive Atlantic salmon watersheds, Natoaganeg First Nation is at the forefront of conservation initiatives aimed at safeguarding vital ecosystems and promoting sustainable practices.

During her visit, Governor General Mary Simon met with members of Natoaganeg First Nation, representatives from the North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council's Anqotum Resource Management department, and officials from the Atlantic Salmon Federation (Canada). Together, they exchanged insights and strategies to address the challenges facing salmon populations.

Following discussions on salmon conservation on the Miramichi River, Governor General Mary Simon traveled to Church Road to meet Steve Ginnish and Mi'kmaq harvesters to see their morning catch of striped bass. This is the only commercial fishery for striped bass in Canada. This engagement provided an opportunity to explore the balance between economic livelihoods and environmental sustainability, highlighting the interconnectedness of Indigenous traditions, resource management, and ecological stewardship.

Reflecting on the importance of preserving Canada's natural resources, Chief Ginnish of Natoaganeg First Nation expressed deep concern over the escalating challenges posed by striped bass and the imperative of protecting salmon habitats for future generations.

Governor General Mary Simon acknowledged the integral connection between Indigenous knowledge and scientific expertise, Her Excellency noted the importance of collaborative action in preserving Canada's natural heritage for future generations.

### **About Natoaganeg**

Natoaganeg 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 Mi'kma'ki is a thriving community, with a strong sense of identity and a commitment to their cultural traditions.

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