



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Natoaganeg and City of Miramichi to unveil shared vision for the former UPM site.

January 31st, 2025

Natoaganeg, Mi'kma'ki – The collaborative journey that began in July 2019 with the signing of the Friendship Accord—uniting the City of Miramichi, Natoaganeg, Metepenagiag, and Esgenoopetitj—has paved the way for strengthened partnerships. Building on this foundation, Natoaganeg and the City of Miramichi have taken a significant step forward with the unveiling of a shared vision for the former UPM site, marking an important milestone in their ongoing relationship.

The partnership, which has blossomed through initiatives such as the raising of the Mi'kmaq Flag in November 2019 and the formation of the Eel Ground Economic Development Working Group in April 2021, has now reached a pivotal point with the shared vision for the former UPM site.

Chief George Ginnish for Council, staff and members of Natoaganeg, *“Natoaganeg Chief and Council are pleased to be able to share a milestone opportunity that was made possible as a direct result of our collaborative work with the City of Miramichi, with technical and economic support via the nationally assisted Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI), which partners neighboring First Nations and municipalities. This opportunity has grown from the existing relationship that was built over a number of years through leadership efforts by Miramichi and the three Mi'gmaq First Nations on the Miramichi: Natoaganeg, Metepenagiag, and Esgenoopetitj.*

The Fisherman's Powwow, which was started to promote respect and partnership, and the Peace and Friendship Accord, which solidified the partnership, have provided a solid foundation for further collaboration and respect. The recognition by the City of Miramichi of Natoaganeg's historical connection to this area has been key to protecting our interests. There will be challenges as to what can be done cost-effectively and environmentally safely, but we are up for the challenge.

As we look ahead, it is important to recognize that 2025 will mark the 300th anniversary of the signing of the first of the Covenant Chain of Treaties between the Mi'gmaq, Wolastoqiyik,

and Peskotomuhkati, and the British Crown. This significant milestone serves as a reminder of our long history of diplomacy and partnership, as well as our continued commitment to collaboration and shared prosperity. Wela'liek, thanks from all of us to all of you. M'sit Nogama."

From Mayor Adam Lordon, "This partnership we have formed by listening and working together with our First Nation friends and neighbours has led us to this stage of sharing this vision we have for the former UPM site. Taking this property from its present state to full development will prove beneficial to both communities and provide many opportunities for us."

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 is a thriving community, with a strong sense of identity and a commitment to their cultural traditions.

About the City of Miramichi

The City of Miramichi is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2025. The city is experiencing a sense of renewal through population growth, economic development, celebrating diversity and inclusion, downtown renewal, housing affordability, environmental sustainability, and active transportation and trail development.

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