



May 3, 2019

Press Release: For Immediate Release

Exploratory Discussions Update

May 3, 2019 Corner Brook—On November 15, 2018, the Government of Canada and the Federation of Newfoundland Indians entered into exploratory discussions to “...address outstanding concerns regarding members of the Canadian Armed Forces, veterans, RCMP and FNI members or members of other Mi’kmaq organizations who were named in the 2008 agreement and denied Founding Membership.”

Since the announcement, the parties held in-person meetings in Corner Brook (December 11-12, 2018) and Halifax (January 25 and February 29, 2019) along with several teleconferences.

The parties are not, at this stage, negotiating an agreement to address any issues identified during the exploratory discussions. In March 2019, the process reached a point where the federal representatives were positioned to seek further direction from the Minister. We are hopeful that federal representatives will receive the appropriate direction before June 2019 and the commencement of the pre-election period.

President Mitchell stated, “We have given the exploratory discussions considerable energy since the November 15, 2018 announcement. It has been, and remains, a priority for the Federation of Newfoundland Indians. The federal government is currently considering the information generated by the exploratory discussions, and the Federation of Newfoundland Indians is waiting for its response. We understand people expect a faster pace, and we are working towards a June 2019 target. The Federation of Newfoundland Indians has raised concerns with the timeline due to the impending Parliamentary summer recess, and possible further delays caused by the Fall election.”

President Mitchell concluded by saying, “I encourage people to contact their MPs to express how important it is for the Minister and the Cabinet to decide on next steps, and more specifically a mandate to negotiate, in the near future.”

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians will share more information, as it becomes available.

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