



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 9, 2025

## Protecting Our Waters, Supporting Our Communities: A Joint Statement from Qalipu and Miawpukek First Nations

*Newfoundland and Labrador, July 9, 2025* — Conservation and co-existing with the land have always been at the core of First Nations values. Miawpukek First Nation (MFN) and Qalipu First Nation (QFN) have always been strong proponents of our waters, lands, and resources for future generations with an eye towards preserving our world for seven generations to come. But like many organizations, our First Nations recognize the need for sustainable and responsible development of our shared ecosystem to create jobs in outport Newfoundland and offer a way of life for so many on the South Coast.

The goal of the National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) has always been to enhance the cooperation of our people, preserve a way of life, and open new opportunities in our region for everyone. We are committed to protecting our waters while also ensuring that our communities thrive.

It is both sad and unfortunate that the discourse of late seems to be dominated by politics of division when the seeds of this project were planted with an honest intent to grow together. Conservation is not the zero-sum game many are trying to portray it to be and can peacefully co-exist with, and in some cases enhance, industry.

We make this public statement today to assure the public that our bands are committed to cooperation, mutual respect, and a wish to accommodate all stakeholders in our shared lands.

Difficult conversations were always expected, and changes to the boundaries of the NMCA are ongoing to strike a healthy balance between industry and conservation, where industry and communities can flourish and prosper with healthy biodiversity, jobs, and business opportunities in tourism, jobs in education and research, and our shared cultural heritage.

Difficult conversations can provide an opportunity to bring clarity, solutions, and empathy and we commit to working through these issues while also appreciating the perspectives of our partners, friends, and fellow stakeholders.



We encourage ongoing, open, and honest dialogue, but we wish to remind everyone that we are all in this together and that we all wish for thriving communities, not at the expense of one another or the environment but built on mutual success.

#### **About:**

#### **Qalipu First Nation**

Qalipu First Nation (QFN) is part of the Mi'kmaq Nation whose territory extends from Maine to Quebec, through the Maritime Provinces and into Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland). This territory is also known as Mi'kma'ki. QFN exists to achieve the advancement of its people and is at work within the province at 6 office locations. QFN is focused on the environment, health, education and training, tourism, small business support, culture, heritage and economic development. To learn more, visit [qalipu.ca](http://qalipu.ca)

#### **Miawpukek First Nation**

Miawpukek First Nation (MFN), also known as Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi, is a Mi'kmaq community located on the south coast of Newfoundland, specifically at the mouth of the Conne River. It is the only land based First Nation in Newfoundland and has approximately 3100 members with 836 living on the reserve. The community has experienced steady growth in various areas, including government, social reforms, health, education, economic development, culture, and traditions. Economic development is dynamically successful with growth from all departments and has almost 100% employment.

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