



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Qalipu First Nation Affirms Mi'kmaq History, Rights, and Call for Meaningful Action**

**Elmastukwek, Ktaqmkuk (Corner Brook, NL)** – During National Indigenous History Month, Lnu'k across our territory assert that the history of our Mi'kmaq Nation in Ktaqmkuk stretches back to time immemorial. Along with the Innu and Inuit, our ancestors have occupied these lands long before the arrival of settlers.

We affirm in solidarity with Nations across the province that Indigenous histories and cultures belong to the Nations themselves and must be respected. We all have distinct rights and governance, grounded in our own responsibilities to our people, lands, and future generations. Our histories can never be defined by anyone other than ourselves.

Reconciliation is often spoken of, yet it is not fully understood. What we need is action that is inclusive, transparent and accountable. Our rights must be meaningfully reflected, and our voices must be present in decision-making at all levels of government.

From protecting the land, skies, and waters, the contributions of Indigenous people have always been, and continue to be, vital to today's society both socially and economically. We remain committed to working alongside those who are ready to move beyond words and toward real, lasting change.