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The Five Pillars of Mi'kmaq Values

1. To achieve recognition, acceptance, implementation and protection of treaty, title and other rights of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia;
2. To develop systems of Mi'kmaq governance and resource management;
3. To revive, promote and protect a healthy Mi'kmaq identity;
4. To obtain the basis for a shared economy and social development; and
5. To negotiate toward these goals with community involvement and support.

Message from the Assembly



Chief Gerard Julian, Assembly Co-Chair & Lead Chief of the Energy Portfolio

As the leaders for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, it is important that our community members know that we have, and will continue to, work in the best interest of our people now, and for the next seven generations.

We have continued to stand by the fact that our peoples have NEVER ceded Rights or Title to the lands of Mi'kma'ki. It is our responsibility as the first peoples of these lands, to ensure that the decisions we make today, won't negatively impact the lives of our people tomorrow.

The protection of the environment has always been part of who we are, and will continue to play a major role in how we move forward in the future.

We have continued to stand beside our community members in their ongoing battles against hydraulic fracturing and any resource extracting that could have harmful effects to our lands and waters.

We want to focus on renewable resources, green energy and ensuring that our people will have the same resources we have been able to enjoy for generations to come.

The Assembly will always do their best to monitor any work that is being done in this province and ensure that they are aware of any possible issues with our Rights, Title and/or environment.

We still have a long way to go - but we will continue to work hard so that we are all satisfied that we are doing it right.



Offshore Exploration Licenses for Seismic Testing

The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs (Assembly), through Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiations Office (KMKNO), has requested consultation with the Provincial Department of Energy regarding the recent Call for Proposals for seismic testing made by the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board. The Assembly and KMKNO have recently found out that testing is proposed to begin in the spring of 2014 on the Central and Eastern Scotian Shelf.

Crab Fishing Zone 23 - which is used by our Mi'kmaq communities - falls within the area of proposed exploration and although evidence of the effects of seismic testing is still inconclusive, the Assembly worries that any negative effects could have long term consequences to our fish and waters.

It is important for our Mi'kmaq communities to know that the Assembly has serious concerns about this proposed testing and that they will continue to push for consultation with the Mi'kmaq as they strongly feel this is necessary to ensure all of our environmental concerns are properly addressed.

Important Questions...

1. *What is seismic testing?*

Seismic testing is a form of scientific testing which can be used to predict the occurrence of earthquakes or to discover natural gas reserves. It was developed in the early 1920's as a tool to predict patterns that indicate an impending earthquake. It was later discovered that this testing also identified the presence of natural gas in the ocean floor. Seismic testing involves the transmission of waves of energy through the earth's crust and recording how the waves are reflected back.

2. *Where is this testing being done?*

In this case specifically, the proposed site is located on the Central and Eastern Scotian shelf which is 230 to 370 km south-east of Halifax. The total area required for the seismic survey program will total approximately 14,000 square kilometers.

3. *Will this affect our fishing grounds?*

Current studies are inconclusive as to the effects of seismic testing on fish habitat and reproduction. There is no conclusive proof that seismic activity does not disturb fisheries. We are concerned about any negative impacts on the fish that could have a long lasting effect from which it may be difficult to recover.

4. *What is the Assembly and KMKNO's response?*

Just like many of our community members, we worry that any negative effects could have long term consequences which it may be very difficult to recover from. Without a guarantee that no harm will come to the fish, we have advised the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board and the Department of Energy not to proceed with any exploration at this time.

5. *What will happen now?*

Under the Terms of Reference for a Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Process, the Crown has a duty to consult with the Mi'kmaq when decisions, approvals and permits are being considered which may have impact to Mi'kmaq Rights and Title. It is important that CNSOPB and the DoE understand that before work is done on their current Call for Proposals, direct and ongoing consultation with the Mi'kmaq is required. The concerns of the Assembly have been communicated to the CNSOPB and the team at KMKNO have coordinated a meeting with them to elaborate on these concerns.



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Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office works on behalf of the Assembly of NS Mi'kmaq Chiefs in the negotiations and consultations between the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada.

KMKNO was developed by the Mi'kmaq for the Mi'kmaq.

The purpose of these negotiations and consultations is to implement our Aboriginal and Treaty rights from the treaties signed by our ancestors in the 1700's.

 @MikmaqRights

 Mi'kmaq Rights

www.mikmaqrights.com