

In the spirit of reconciliation, we gather here together today. We gather with the intention to build strong relationships together, to build a stronger sense of cultural understanding, but to also build a strong future together.

A future filled with opportunities to learn about each other in a space where it is safe to share who we are, a space where culture is supported, a space where we can think outside the box and into the circle where we all belong.

This is a space where voices will be heard and a space where real change can happen.

The Mi'kmaw people have always honored and respected their traditional practices as it relates to our connection with N'kiji'nen Wksit'qamu (Mother Earth) through the appreciation of all her bounties. It always sustained us and kept us alive as our people travelled the land to hunt, fish, trap, and raise our families across Mi'kma'ki.

This land, Unama'ki, is one of our 7 traditional territories. It is the Land of the Fog - the first part of the word "Un" means fog, and "maki" meaning land. Since time immemorial our people have lived and survived through our relationship with this land utilizing many sacred gifts such as the gift of fire. It helped to sustain us, to keep us warm, to feed us, and to light our way as we journeyed forward discovering new places to come together and celebrate life.

Today we honor the sacred gift of fire one more time to celebrate life, to celebrate tradition, and to celebrate the many relationships we hope to build by following the path that this fire will light in front of us all.

Through this sacred fire ceremony, we are now connected by this fire, by this light of hope, on a long journey forward towards building true understanding of our Mi'kmaw people but also all peoples.

We invite you to take the torch and come on this journey with us! Eltuek - we are making it together.



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