



<b>Policy Number</b>	
<b>Name of Policy</b>	<b>PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP POLICY</b>
<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>DECEMBER 19, 2023</b>
<b>Revision Date</b>	
<b>Originating Department</b>	<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM</b>
<b>Policy Statement</b>	<b>Reconciliation is an ongoing process, through which Indigenous peoples and the City of Miramichi work cooperatively to establish and maintain a mutually respectful framework for living together.</b>
<b>Scope – Who it affects</b>	<b>General Public</b>

**POLICY - Peace and Friendship Policy**

**Background:**

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, the Chiefs and Councils of the Esgenoopetitj First Nation (Esgenoopetitj), Natoaganeg First Nation (Natoaganeg), and Metepenagiag Mi’kmaq Nation (Metepenagiag) and the Mayor of the City of Miramichi (Miramichi) signed the Peace and Friendship Accord. The Accord recognizes and accepts that the communities share a territory and common interest, living on traditional Mi’kmaq territory.

The Accord also recognizes the desire to work together in a cooperative manner for the benefit of all residents and to recognize and celebrate one another’s accomplishments. The communities wish to acknowledge and strengthen the social, political, spiritual, physical, and economic ties/opportunities that exist between them and enhance their relationship based upon mutual respect, recognition, and safety because this is beneficial to all communities.

The Peace and Friendship Accord between Esgenoopetitj, Natoaganeg, and Metepenagiag First Nations and Miramichi provides the framework upon which the Communities, including their respective governments, residents and members, will collaborate with one another; and calls on the communities to develop mutual protocols and activities that engage First Nations Chief and Council and Municipal leaders or their representatives on issue of initiatives of community economic and social development, and other matters that respect the heritage, the provision of services tailored to the culture and inclusive social participation.

**Policy Objective:**

The purpose of the Peace and Friendship Policy is to provide Council, staff, and stakeholders with mutually agreed upon protocols and activities that support reconciliation as outlined in the Peace and Friendship Accord signed by the communities in 2019.

**Guiding Principles:**

Relationships – Enhance and promote positive perceptions and attitudes between Indigenous communities and the City of Miramichi by: Carefully listening to each other; acting respectfully towards one another; recognizing and respecting protocols and processes; honouring values; acknowledging our connection.



Celebrations – Share the gifts of our relationship by: Identifying the milestone of this growing relationship; sharing the stories of our relationship; marking and recording our relationship successes; and celebrating our achievements together.

Agreements – Explore and create agreements that enrich community life by: Creating solutions together; respecting the knowledge and experience of Indigenous community members, business leaders and professionals; and recognizing each other's responsibilities.

Renewal – Renew and strengthen this relationship by: Honouring the spirit and intent of this policy; utilizing this policy to guide our learning and relationships; acknowledging that this policy is a living document to be reviewed every five (5) years.

### **Truth and Reconciliation:**

- The City of Miramichi will support the journey of Reconciliation by applying the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action that apply to municipalities which include:
  1. (43) We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.
  2. (47) We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.
  3. (57) We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.
  4. (75) We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current landowners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. This is to include the provision of appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children.
  5. (77) We call upon provincial, territorial, municipal, and community archives to work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system, and to provide these to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.
  6. (87) We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.
  7. (88) We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.



## **Commitment:**

### **Land Acknowledgements**

- The City of Miramichi will work with its Indigenous partners to develop land acknowledgements that are appropriate for the occasion and/or location.
- The City of Miramichi will ensure a land acknowledgment is conducted at all City Council, Committee of Council, and Standing Committee meetings.
- The City of Miramichi will include a land acknowledgment on all welcome signs entering the municipality.
- The City of Miramichi will include a land acknowledgment in the annual visitor guide.
- The City of Miramichi will include a land acknowledgment on the City of Miramichi's website.
- The City of Miramichi will include a land acknowledgement on the Discover Miramichi website.
- The City of Miramichi will include a land acknowledgement on the Miramichi Striper Cup website.
- The City of Miramichi will include a condition in its Festival and Events Grant that a land acknowledgement be included in a mutually agreed upon way during the event.
- The City of Miramichi will strive to include a visual land acknowledgement on all public buildings owned and operated by the City of Miramichi.

### **Treaties**

- The City of Miramichi will obtain and display copies of the Covenant Chain of Treaties and display these treaties in a public space.
- The City of Miramichi will obtain and display a copy of the 2019 Peace and Friendship Accord and display this accord in a public space.

### **Inclusion of Mi'kmaq language and flag**

- The City of Miramichi will include an Indigenous greeting on all *Welcome to Miramichi* signs at our municipal borders.
- The City of Miramichi will incorporate the Mi'kmaq flag in the Council Chambers.

### **Inclusive partnerships**

- The City of Miramichi will annually host and coordinate activities recommended by FN communities for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.
- The City of Miramichi will extend an invitation to Indigenous dignitaries to all City hosted events.
- The City of Miramichi will establish protocols and processes to engage with Indigenous communities on art, culture, tourism, and celebrations.
- The City of Miramichi will work with MTI to establish a consultation process on development projects with Indigenous communities.
- The City of Miramichi will work with Indigenous communities to schedule an annual meeting to encouraging relationship building and discuss common areas of interest and importance.

### **Cultural Awareness**

- The City of Miramichi will continue to provide Council and Staff with Indigenous cultural awareness training in the areas of culture, elder protocol, treaties and their meaning, tobacco pouches and ceremonies, and Mi'kmaq language. The City will ensure that the cultural awareness training is provided by reputable Indigenous individual(s) or groups who have credibility and connection to the Mi'kmaq Nation.



**Workforce and procurement opportunities**

- The City of Miramichi will partner with Esgenoopetitj, Natoaganeg, and Metepenagiag First Nations to lobby other levels of government to support training in French for Indigenous People.

Approved by City Manager	Signature:
Approved by City Council	Signature:
Date	