



October 20, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

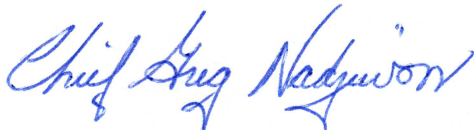
On behalf of the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, I am sending this letter to express the disappointment of having to watch our relatives on the east coast suffer because they are practicing their inherent right to harvest a resource in their traditional territory. The failure of law enforcement to protect Mi'kmaq rights has resulted in several instances of property and equipment damage and sabotage, and Indigenous fishers continue to face violence on a day to day basis at the hands of non-Indigenous commercial fishers. The Chief and Council of the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation offer our full support to the Sipekne'katik First Nation in the establishment of their first self-governed commercial fishery as inherent rights holders.

The Mi'kmaq have lived and fished in their traditional territory for thousands of years, and their right to do so has been recognized and affirmed through numerous Treaties and under Section 35(1) of the Canadian Constitution. Such acts of racism against Indigenous rights holders cannot be tolerated. It is the responsibility of the Canadian Government to protect the Indigenous fishers' rights from being violated, and they legitimize these attacks through their inaction.

As Chief of a community that sees our fishers having to defend their right to fish for commerce on a daily basis, I remain baffled when governments make promises for equitable shares of monies from resource initiatives and then stand back and watch the world turn without any substantial change in First Nation territories. It is time to put the rhetoric into action and allow the Indigenous Nations throughout Turtle Island to benefit.

The Government of Canada needs to commit to the promises made in treaties. We call on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier Stephen McNeil to take immediate and concrete action in support of Mi'kmaq rights and the Sipekne'katik First Nation moderate livelihood fishery. Education of the general populace is key in ensuring respect for our treaty rights and a peaceful resolution in this conflict. The Chief, Council, community members, and fishers stand in solidarity with our Mi'kmaq relatives.

Sincerely,



Chief Greg Nadjiwon