



MI'GMAQ AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF GESPE'GEWA'GI

Whereas the Mi'gmaq language has been spoken in Gespe'gewa'gi since time before memory and well before the arrival of Europeans in Mi'gma'gi;

Whereas the vitality of the Mi'gmaq language has been under attack by colonial forces since the arrival of Europeans in Mi'gma'gi;

Whereas the Mi'gmaq language is the vital tie that connects us to our ancestors as well as to future generations in Gespe'gewa'gi and throughout Mi'gma'gi;

Whereas the Mi'gmaq language narrates our history within Gespe'gewa'gi and our nation-to-nation relationship with the Crown and other Aboriginal Nations;

Whereas the Mi'gmaq language determines our worldview (Ugs'tqamu) and is the repository for our teachings, our oral history, our laws and our protocols;

Whereas the Mi'gmaq possess the inherent and constitutional right to maintain, promote and advance the Mi'gmaq language;

Whereas the survival and vitality of the Mi'gmaq language depends upon the use of the Mi'gmaq language in all aspects of everyday life in Gespe'gewa'gi;

Whereas our connection to the Mi'gmaq language brings the communities of Gespeg, Gesgapegiag and Listuguj together as one Nation with one Vision;

Whereas it is necessary to put in place policies that will facilitate the revitalisation of the Mi'gmaq language in the Mi'gmaq communities of Gespe'gewa'gi;

Be it resolved that the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Assembly declares Mi'gmaq as the official language of Gespe'gewa'gi;

Be it further resolved that the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Assembly authorizes the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat to draft policies that will allow our communities to prioritize the retention, promotion and revitalization of the Mi'gmaq language in the social, cultural, spiritual, governmental and international life of the Mi'gmaq.

Moved: Joanna Martin

Second: Calvin Barnaby

By Consensus

Duly convened Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Meeting of January 16, 2009