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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

## **The Mi'gmaq Announce a Consultation and Accommodation Process Agreement with the Government of Quebec regarding Hydrocarbon Activity**

**Gespe'ewa'gi Territory, June 15, 2020** – The Leadership of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi announce the signature of a process agreement with the Government of Quebec for consultation and accommodation regarding hydrocarbon activity.

The leadership of the three communities, the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi (MM), composed of Chiefs and councils of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg and Listuguj, views this agreement in a positive light, as the negotiated consultation process will allow the Nation to take well-informed decisions regarding potential exploration and exploitation of resources on its unceded and unsundered ancestral territory. This agreement sets the table for a consultation practice that respects the principle of Nation-to-Nation relations. This approach is fundamental to the Mi'gmaq being able to advance their interests across the whole of Gespe'ewa'gi.

### **A Significant Amount of Work to Obtain the Agreement**

The three Chiefs are optimistic with the implementation of the process and all the work it represented. Effectively, the MM and its secretariat, the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat (MMS) presented the consultation and accommodation project to the citizens of the three communities and put in place mechanisms to ensure that Mi'gmaq who live in and outside of those communities could learn about it and have their say. With these discussions, the

Mi'gmaq were able to adjust their proposal and better negotiate the agreement in the best interests of the Nation.

“The most important element in this agreement is that the Mi'gmaq maintain their right to accept projects or not. We are not at all opposed to economic development, but we want to be sure we can take well-informed decisions. This consultation agreement will allow us to be better informed on all aspects of projects on our territory in order for us to take the best decisions for the future of our Nation,” noted Chief John Martin of Gesgapegiag.

“ A lot of work went into reaching this agreement. The leadership of the MM worked hard to ensure that the agreement reflected the constitutionally protected rights of the Mi'gmaq. The work accomplished with this agreement puts an end to the *status quo* and is a small step towards better and stronger agreements that respect and recognize the inherent rights of the Mi'gmaq” said Chair of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi,” Chief Darcy Gray of Listuguj.

“Hydrocarbons development is a sensitive topic in our communities. This agreement will set the tone on how to conduct acceptable consultation and accommodation processes in our Nation. By doing so, we will be able to fulfill our role as guardian of our territory, Gespe'gewa'gi,” stated Chief Terry Shaw of Gespeg.

### **About the MM and the MMS**

The Mi'gmawei Mawiomi (MM) is the Assembly consisting of the Chiefs and Councillors of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj.

The Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat (MMS) is the administrative body that carries out the work set out by the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi.

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