



Ta'n Gespe'gewa'gi Tliango'tesnen

Terms of Reference

May 2026



~ Wela'lieq ~

Wela'lieq to the community members from Gesgapegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj First Nations who participated in the creation of the Terms of Reference.

Wela'lieq to the Chiefs and Councils of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj First Nations for your ongoing support and guidance.

Wela'lieq to the TGT Planning Committee for making sure the Terms of Reference adhered to Mi'gmaq values, beliefs, and laws.

Wela'lieq to the band staff from Gesgapegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj First Nations as the staff from the Gespe'gewa'gi Institute of Natural Understanding, the Mi'gmaq Wolastoqey Indigenous Fisheries Management Association, and the Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi Business Corporation who provided key information and input into the creation of the TGT ToR.

Wela'lieq to Juliette Barnaby, the Director of Ango'tmeq Nm'tginen, Peter Vicaire, the Ango'tmeq Manager, and all the Ango'tmeq Nm'tginen who played a key role in the creation of the TGT ToR.

Wela'lieq to the MMS executive team, the Agnutmatesnu team, the MMS communications team and the MMS executive team for their ongoing support throughout the creation of the TGT ToR.

Wela'lieq to Odonaterra Inc. who helped write the TGT ToR based on the ideas and values of our Mi'gmaq communities.

Wela'lieq to those who were involved in earlier versions of the TGT, whose work we continue to build upon.

~ Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi Secretariat

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1)	INTRODUCTION	1
2)	TGT BENEFITS & OPPORTUNITIES	4
3)	VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES	6
4)	PLANNING ISSUES & CHALLENGES	12
5)	MI'GMAW PLANNING AUTHORITY	15
6)	PROPOSED PLANNING AREA & TIMEFRAME	18
7)	PLANNING CONTEXT	20
8)	ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PREPARING THE TGT	27
9)	TGT CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES	29
10)	PLANNING PHASES & DELIVERABLES	31
11)	REFERENCES	37
	APPENDIX A: PLANNING COMMITTEE AND ADVISORS	40



1) Introduction

Ta'n Gespe'gewa'gi Tliango'tesnen (TGT), in the Mi'gmaq language means 'How we take care of the land.' The TGT will be a regional plan for the land and waters of Gespe'gewa'gi which operationalizes Mi'gmaq law, stewardship responsibilities, and decision-making in day-to-day planning over lands, waters, and our community interests. It will outline how and where Gespe'gewa'gi is developed in the future, according to the values, beliefs and principles shared by the Mi'gmaq communities of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj.

The TGT will combine cultural knowledge and scientific data to create policies for land and water uses that will best protect Gespe'gewa'gi in accordance with our Mi'gmaq values.

The TGT was formerly known as the Gespe'gewa'gi Management Plan (GMP). On May 7th, 2025, a group of Mi'gmaq knowledge holders and language speakers convened to explore the necessity for a creative title for this land use plan, aiming to enhance self-governance and safeguard cultural zones, species, and the watershed. Participants deliberated on the constraints associated with the name of the plan being the GMP and proposed the Ta'n Gespe'gewa'gi Tliango'tesnen ('how we take care of the land'), emphasizing the importance of a name imbued with meaning.

MMS began working on the original GMP in the early 2000's as there was a clear need for Mi'gmaq people to have a larger role in decision-making in Gespe'gewa'gi lands and water management and protection. Over the past two decades, there have been challenges in finalizing the GMP due to inadequate funding and resources. Since then, much has changed, and we see increasing development pressures in Gespe'gewa'gi.

With increasing development pressure across Gespe'gewa'gi, the need for Mi'gmaq lands and water management and protection is greater than ever. Recent funding has made it possible for MMS to start again to work in partnership with Gesgapegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj to create the TGT. The TGT will be created building on the work conducted for the GMP with updated research and community input.

Proposed TGT Vision & Goal

Our Nm'tginen Statement of Claim (2007), states:

Ugjit siawiango'tmnen aq nujo'tmnen gm'tginu, ta'n telo'lting aq ta'n teliglams'tasulti'gw ugjit nige' aq ta'n wejgwita'jig enmigne'g ulapetaq aq gu'guntaq ta'n te's'g maqamigew, mnigu'l, ugju'sn, samuqwanl aq we'gaw ta'n goqwei maqamigewigtug wejiepgeniaq.

Our vision is to exercise governing powers and the right to manage the Gespe'gewa'gi territory in accordance with Mi'gmaq values and beliefs so that present and future generations will have access to, and benefit from, the islands, wind resources, waters and marine life, ecology, and all that is created from the land and waters.

The TGT must harmonize the values of culture, the environment and the economy. Our goal for the TGT is to create a plan that sustains a healthy environment and healthy communities, towards environmental, social and economic prosperity for generations to come.

To achieve this goal, community members involved in the preparation of the TGT identified four main objectives:

1. Protection of water using a water-first approach
2. Protection of culture and cultural activities
3. Greater Mi'gmaq access to the land
4. Increased Mi'gmaq authority over land management

This TGT Terms of Reference is our Guide

To ensure the TGT is created with community knowledge and values from the beginning stages, this Terms of Reference (ToR) has been created to guide the

approach and content of the TGT. This ToR has been created based on Mi'gmaq values, community engagement, Two-eyed seeing, and input from staff working for each of the three communities of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj.

This draft TGT ToR is a reset and renewed effort to address the urgent need for a unified vision and management direction for our territory. This ToR sets a clear path, created by and for our communities, to guide the preparation of the TGT.

This ToR outlines the following:

- Benefits and opportunities of creating the TGT (Section 2).
- Values and planning principles that will be upheld in the creation of the TGT (Section 3).
- Key challenges facing Gespe'gewa'gi today (Section 4).
- Our legal and rightful authority as Mi'gmaq people to govern our lands and waters (Section 5).
- Planning area and timeframe: What lands and waters should be included in the plan and how often the plan should be revised (Section 6).
- Planning context (Section 7).
- Roles and responsibilities of creating the TGT (Section 8).
- How to engage community members to ensure it's based on Mi'gmaq knowledge and values and how other stakeholders will be engaged (Section 9).
- Next steps involved in creating the TGT (Section 10).



2) TGT Benefits & Opportunities

The TGT can offer potential benefits and opportunities for our people and territory, but also for other governments in their efforts to achieve reconciliation with our First Nations. This section outlines some of the benefits and opportunities for both.

Potential Mi'gmaq Benefits and Opportunities:

- Improves the health and wellbeing of our people by addressing cumulative effects from development and resource exploitation.
- Facilitates recognition of our rights and responsibilities regarding development.
- Creates and reinstates better access to, and the availability of, natural resources and sites central to sustaining community health, wellbeing, culture, and our inherent rights.
- Protects the health and wellbeing of our people for future generations by protecting the air, lands, waters, and the life it sustains.
- Balances the interests in Gespe'gewa'gi by following the Seven Sacred Teachings.
- Guides responsible and sustainable development in Gespe'gewa'gi based on Mi'gmaq values.
- Supports our participation in consultations and accommodations negotiations with the Crown and industry as it creates clear guidance about what Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gmaq people may consent to regarding proposed development and will act as a guide for our responses and decisions.
- Affirms that consultation and accommodation is only one part of the broader Treaty relationship and Mi'gmaq self-determination in decisions affecting lands and waters.
- Provides a framework to achieve Mi'gmaq consent over development in Gespe'gewa'gi.

Potential Provincial and Federal Government Benefits and Opportunities:

- Supports Crown's duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate when Crown conduct may adversely impact our asserted or established Aboriginal and Treaty rights.
- Helps advance several Calls for Economic Prosperity (CEP) made under the National Indigenous Economic Strategy, a strategy to support meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the Canadian economy. In particular, the TGT will advance CEP 32, 38, 39, 47, and 48 which call for strengthening negotiating capacities of Indigenous groups, documenting Traditional Knowledge, strengthening relationships to the land, and affirming Indigenous Rights as stewards and protectors of the lands (Canadian Association of Native Development Officers et al., 2022).
- Supports provincial mandates related to land planning with Indigenous groups such as achieving Objective 9 in Quebec's *Living Smart, Building Smart 2023-2027 Implementation Plan for Quebec's National Architecture and Land Use Planning Policy* that envisions setting up 'discussion groups' to 'better take into account Aboriginal realities in land use planning'.
- Enables the Federal Government to fulfill their commitments to United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) (Articles 3,18, 32, 37, and more) and effectively implement it on the ground.



3) Values & Guiding Principles

The TGT guiding principles will be rooted in Mi'gmaq values. Our values stem from our worldview and influences our way of life in contemporary society.

Mi'gmaw Worldview

One traditional Mi'gmaw belief is that Gisu'lgw created all things in nature equally, therefore all creations should be treated with great respect. One world indivisible and man is only one part of a totally interdependent system that sees all things, animate and inanimate, in their proper places. Every "thing" exists through cycles of constant transformation.

A Mi'gmaw way-of-life, sustained and practiced over thousands of years, shaped an understanding of the territory through which Mi'gmaq principles, values and beliefs about governance, language, culture and land tenure systems have evolved. The traditional Mi'gmaw world view is based on a holistic understanding of the land: seasons, cycles, water, wind and sky; in turn alliances and treaties affirm these relationships within the territory.

We, as Mi'gmaq people have a special relationship and responsibility for the protection, conservation and restoration of the natural environment for the benefit of those present and for future generations. It is in our constitution, in our world view that we are here to take care of Gespe'gewa'gi, the resources and all living and non-living things. The TGT will help us achieve this responsibility.

Elita'suatmeg

Elita'suatmeg in Mi'gmaw, means any part of the environment that is considered important to us. It roughly translates to, "what we depend on". These values include elements of our physical environment, wildlife and their habitats, aquatic resources, community health, economic resiliency and our culture.

These values are not static. What we value is our interactions with them. For example, salmon and moose are *Elita'suatmeg*, but so too is our practice of fishing, hunting and the intergenerational transfer of Mi'gmaq knowledge that takes place when we engage

in these activities. Protection of these values thus ensures protection of our cultural connections with them. The TGT will help protect Mi'gmaq Elita'suatmeg.

Gepmite'taqan, Ta'n telitpi'taqati'gw, and Ta'n telmawilsutaqati'gw

The TGT will be rooted in *Gepmite'taqan* (respect), *Ta'n telitpi'taqati'gw* (sharing) and *Ta'n telmawilsutaqati'gw* (responsibility). These values are rooted in our laws and well documented in our Nm'tginen Statement of Claim (2007).

Through *Gepmite'taqan* (respect), the TGT will help to balance territorial interests; ensuring that we respect other governments interests, but also that other governments respect our rights, the Peace and Friendship Treaties, the United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and our Mi'gmaw governing authority and laws.

The principle of *Ta'n telitpi'taqati'gw* (sharing) will be upheld throughout the creation of the TGT. *Ta'n telitpi'taqati'gw* will help us continue to foster positive relationships with our neighbours and create shared prosperity. *Ta'n telitpi'taqati'gw* also extends to future generations as it is our responsibility to ensure the intergenerational health and wellbeing of Mi'gmaq people.

It is our *Ta'n telmawilsutaqati'gw* (responsibility) to sustainably steward the lands and waters, protect our people's health and wellbeing, and practice and sustain our culture. The TGT will help ensure our values of respect, sharing, and responsibility are met.

Punui'men ~ Water First

Gespe'gewa'gi is defined by its water and the life it provides. Water is our lifeblood, many believe a gift from the Creator and must be respected, honored and protected. Water is also a major economic driver across Gespe'gewa'gi, supporting water-based economies such as the fishery, tourism, and aquaculture.

Our Mi'gmaq communities have, and continue to affirm, their intimate and sacred linkage to water. This connection goes well beyond access to safe drinking water for consumption and hygiene. Mi'gmaq lifestyle and traditional economy is dependent on the water, as a mode of transportation, food, livelihood and cultural and spiritual values. As such, we have great concern with the use, allocation and threats to water. Its

greatest threats come from climate change, forestry operations, mining, and hydrocarbon development.

The TGT will be adopting a Punui'men Approach meaning a water-first approach to land and water management. This means that all development in the territory will be measured according to its impact on water quality, quantity and rhythm of flow.

Etuaptmumk ~ Two-Eyed Seeing

A Etuaptmumk or in English, a 'Two-Eyed Seeing' approach will be used to develop the TGT, where both Mi'gmaq knowledge and western science will be leveraged. For example, the TGT will use Mi'gmaq knowledge passed down through generations and community knowledge on the current health and wellbeing of Gespe'gewa'gi ecosystems. Western science will also be used to create an understanding of the certain types of environmental pressures, for example identifying certain types of contaminants.

The Mi'gmaq traditional teachings are rooted in a worldview that understands people, land, water, animals, plants, and spirit as part of a single, living network of relationships. This worldview is not simply cultural or historical; it continues to inform Mi'gmaq identity, values, responsibilities, and land use practices today. At its foundation is a spiritual and ethical understanding of the world that places respect, reciprocity, and balance at the centre of how people live with the land.

Mi'gmaq Traditional Teachings

A central concept in Mi'gmaq belief is Gisu'lgw, the Creator. Related spiritual language also includes gjinisgam, meaning Great Spirit. In this understanding, the natural world is not viewed as a stock of commodities to be extracted, but as part of a sacred and ordered creation deserving of care and respect. This worldview is further expressed through the principle of Msit No'kmaq, often translated as "all my relations." Mi'gmaw teachings explain that soil, water, trees, sky, stars, and the rest of creation are understood as relations, not merely as resources. This principle carries both humility and obligation: human beings are not above the natural world, but exist within it, and their actions affect the whole.

The lived ethical expression of this worldview is found in Netukulimk, described through the core values of Responsibility, Reciprocity, Relationship, and Respect, and tie it directly to responsibility for future generations. Netukulimk is more than a concept; it is a way of “being and knowing” that guides how one lives in harmony with the land and with all relations. In practical terms, it teaches that the use of land, water, and natural gifts must be thoughtful, restrained, and oriented toward long-term balance rather than short-term gain.

Mi’gmaq traditional knowledge is also shaped by a cosmological understanding described through the Seven Sacred Directions or Seven Levels of Creation. The Mi’kmaq Grand Council explains these as a sacred ordering of the world: Above is the Giver of Life, Centre is Grandfather Sun, Below is Mother Earth, and the four cardinal directions are associated with Glusgap in the East, Grandmother in the South, the Young Man in the West, and the Mother in the North. Together, these teachings situate human life within a sacred geography and reinforce that the land is not just a setting for activity, but part of a meaningful and living order.

Taken together, Gisu’lgw, gjiniscam, Msit No’kmaq, Netukulimk, and the Seven Sacred Directions express a distinctly Mi’gmaq understanding of life on the land. They frame land use not as ownership or control, but as relationship, stewardship, and intergenerational responsibility. For land use planning, this means recognizing that Mi’gmaq connections to land and waters are spiritual, cultural, ecological, and lived. It also means understanding that decisions affecting land and water may also affect language, harvesting, ceremony, knowledge transmission, and identity. Any planning process that seeks to respect Mi’gmaq traditional land use should therefore account for these enduring relationships and the values that sustain them.

OCAP®

OCAP® stands for our rights as Indigenous people to Own, Control, Access, and Possess our knowledge and assert the right to our data sovereignty.

The First Nations Information Governance Centre (2026) has trademarked the acronym OCAP® and defines the terms as the following:

- **Ownership** refers to the relationship of First Nations to their cultural knowledge, data, and information. This principle states that a community or group owns

information collectively in the same way that an individual owns his or her personal information.

- **Control** affirms that First Nations, their communities, and representative bodies are within their rights to seek control over all aspects of research and information management processes that impact them. First Nations control of research can include all stages of a particular research project-from start to finish. The principle extends to the control of resources and review processes, the planning process, management of the information and so on.
- **Access** refers to the fact that First Nations must have access to information and data about themselves and their communities regardless of where it is held. The principle of access also refers to the right of First Nations' communities and organizations to manage and make decisions regarding access to their collective information. This may be achieved, in practice, through standardized, formal protocols.
- **Possession** While ownership identifies the relationship between a people and their information in principle, possession or stewardship is more concrete: it refers to the physical control of data. Possession is the mechanism by which ownership can be asserted and protected.

Throughout each step of the creation of the TGT, it is imperative that the principles of OCAP® are respected and upheld by all supporting partners to protect our data sovereignty.

The Seven Sacred Teachings¹

The TGT will be created to follow, respect, and uplift our Mi'gmaq Seven Sacred Teachings, including Love, Humility, Honesty, Respect, Courage, Wisdom, and Truth.

1. **Love.** Love must be interpreted utilizing a wholistic view. Love means not only love of one another, but also love of oneself, one's family, one's enemies, animals, plants, and all living things.
2. **Humility.** With true humility, we often place the needs of others or the greater good before our own, and therefore the message contained within this teaching is not to be selfish, self-serving, or arrogant.

¹ The text used for the Seven Sacred Teachings came from the Union of the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq

3. **Honestly.** Honesty, like the other teachings, is rooted in complexity because it has so many different means and interpretations. Being honest with oneself, being honest with others, being honest about perspective, about shortcomings, about your spiritual place, about history, and about change & reconciliation are all concepts that can arise when looking at the teaching of honesty.
4. **Respect.** Respect can also be interpreted, and should be interpreted in many ways, all at once. Respect for the earth, for resources, for others, and respect for oneself are all key concepts in this teaching.
5. **Courage.** To do what is right is not easy. It takes courage. It takes courage to heal that which is not well within you before being reborn. In your life, you will need courage to transform fears that might prevent you from living a good life.
6. **Wisdom.** Wisdom is something often associated with Elders and Elder knowledge and must be lived and learned. We gain wisdom by listening and watching and gaining a better understanding of the world and the spirit world. Wisdom, unlike the other teachings is not as universal in understanding. It is something that differs from knowledge and is gained, however, some can be born with natural abilities that provide them with better opportunities to gain wisdom, such as being a good listener and deep thinker.
7. **Truth.** Truth is a complex teaching, as it can refer to speaking the truth, telling the truth, living your truth, praying for truth, understanding the truth, and other important principles. It is said that living with truth and acknowledging truth you will live a happier, simpler life without discourse.

Nkujioqnn ~ Cultural Continuity

Mi'gmaq culture and language are deeply tied to the land and water. Creating land and water use policies will help us achieve our vision, to protect Gespe'gewa'gi ecosystems, which will also help protect our culture.

As much as possible, the TGT will use the Mi'gmaq language throughout the document and increase awareness about Mi'gmaq culture and language with our communities, and with the public.

In 2017, MMS was mandated to increase the visibility on the territory thus creating Peigwaptmeg, which means, *"see ourselves and see our names again that have always been here and all around us."*

The objective was to increase recognition and make our Mi'gmaq identity visible throughout our territory for both Mi'gmaq and non-indigenous people. This would also increase the knowledge, understanding and the respect of our rights and jurisdiction throughout Gespe'gewa'gi.

This project was performed in conjunction with the three Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gmaq communities including Mi'gmaq citizens, elders, Mi'gmaq speakers, leadership and MMS. Over the years, MMS has successfully identified approximately 800 Mi'gmaq place names across Gespe'gewa'gi.

4) Planning Issues & Challenges

Implementing the TGT will help address issues and challenges with land and water uses and decision-making. Our communities were engaged on issues that need to be resolved in the Values, Interests and Visions ('VIV') survey conducted in 2016. In November 2025, interviews were conducted with our community staff involved in natural resource management and economic development, as well as staff from GINU and AGHAMW to confirm and identify any new or emerging issues and challenges that can be addressed in the TGT.

In 2016, the issues ranked by importance from the VIV survey were:

1. Not being consulted over what's happening in Territory,
2. Limited access to land, loss of land, can't practice traditional activities where we want,
3. Forestry is destroying our land / water / medicines,
4. Oil, gas², pipelines impact to health and environment, and
5. Poor management of resources

In 2025, issues and challenges seen by our natural resources and economic development staff were:

- The magnitude and increasing pace of new development across Gespe'gewa'gi.
- The lack of Quebec government recognition of Mi'gmaq rights and jurisdiction in Gespe'gewa'gi.
- Changes in the health and availability of salmon and other aquatic species.

² Note the MMS successfully negotiated a Hydrocarbon Consultation and Accommodation Agreement for the part of Gespe'gewa'gi in the Gaspé peninsula and Iles de la Madeleine in 2020.

- Increased vacation lots allocations across Gespe'gewa'gi.
- Eroding access to the lands and water.

Addressing Teli Mawiomijik ~ Cumulative Effects

Gespe'gewa'gi has changed significantly since colonization, and there are rising concerns for the magnitude and increasing pace of new development across our lands and waters. Each project and development with negative impacts across Gespe'gewa'gi contributes to Teli Mawiomijik or in English, cumulative effects. Teli Mawiomijik are impacting the wellbeing of our lands, waters, biodiversity, our people and our culture.

Some of the biggest concerns that are contributing to cumulative effects at present include mining exploration, vacation lot allocations, wind energy, forestry, overharvesting, amongst others. These effects are intensified by climate change impacts and could be further affected by the proposed Bill S-2 (Act to amend the Indian Act) that could see increases in Mi'gmaq members. This is creating strains for current staff to keep up and ensure that their work represents the will of the Mi'gmaq people. Vacation lot allocations were a reoccurring topic of discussion. There was interest in sharing more information about Indigenous cabin policy and development and potentially establishing a Mi'gmaq-led vacation/cabin lot program to reassert physical jurisdiction over Gespe'gewa'gi.

Asserting Mi'gmaq Jurisdiction

There is hope that the TGT will be effective in supporting consultations and establishing Mi'gmaq expectations for the types and amount of development in the territory. Because of these interests and concerns, there was a general willingness to work together and support the preparation of the TGT.

A reoccurring frustration is the continued lack of Quebec government recognition of Mi'gmaq rights and jurisdiction in Gespe'gewa'gi. This could have implications for recognition and respect for the land use policies and designations that will be prepared in the TGT. Nevertheless, interviewees felt that the TGT can be an important tool to guide consultation with all levels of government and developers/proponents in the territory. Existing and emerging partnerships with external organizations including natural resource conservation groups, municipalities, and developers (such as

mining, forestry and wind energy companies) could be leveraged to support the TGT thereby encouraging its recognition by Quebec.

Supports Implementation of Consultation and Accommodation Policy

Both MMS and each of our member communities receive various consultation requests every year. MMS receives approximately over 100 requests for consultations every year about various projects taking place within Gespe'gewa'gi. Each consultation request takes a lot of time and energy to ensure the project will not have negative impacts to our people, and it can be very difficult to manage an increasing number of consultation requests, especially with new types of development being considered in the region.

The TGT is generally seen as a benefit and supporting tool that will inform and help to implement the existing MMS Consultation and Accommodation Policy and the complementary internal consultation procedure that will support consultation and negotiations with other governments and development proponents.

In summary, the key issues expressed a decade ago are similar to current issues. The TGT therefore must address the interrelated key issues of:

- Recognition of Mi'gmaw rights and decision-making authority,
- Adverse cumulative effects on the Gespe'gewa'gi environment from development pressure, and
- Loss of access to the territory (land and water) for sustaining and reviving Mi'gmaw culture.



5) Mi'gmaw Planning Authority

This Is Our Unceded Territory

The entire Mi'gmaq territory is known as *Mi'gma'gi*, which includes all Atlantic Canada and Quebec south the of the St. Lawrence River, Anticosti Island, the west coast of Newfoundland, the Magdalene Islands, and parts of Maine. *Mi'gma'gi* has seven districts. Gespe'gewa'gi is the seventh district of *Mi'gma'gi* (Figure 1).

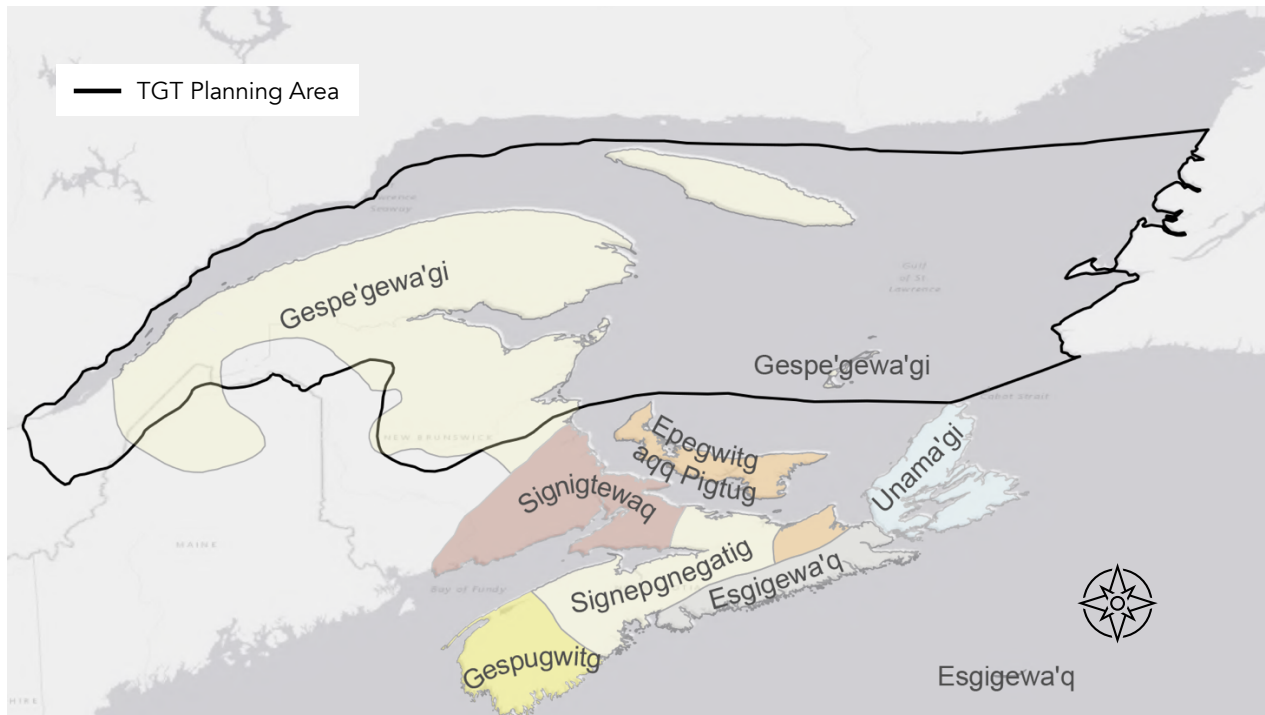


Figure 1 Seven Districts of Mi'gma'gi

Gespe'gewa'gi means "the last land", and it encompasses what is known today as the Gaspé Peninsula and parts of Québec, Maine, northern New Brunswick (north of the St. John watershed) and extends east over the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence past Anticosti Island and the Magdalen Islands to the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador. Our earliest ancestors lived in Gespe'gewa'gi for at least 9,000 years (Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gmawei Mawiomi, 2016) and we are still here. This has always been and will forever be our home.

Between 1725 and 1779, a series of treaties, known as the *Covenant Chain of Peace and Friendship Treaties*, were agreed to and signed by the Mi'gmaq and the Crown. During these negotiations, the Crown acknowledged that the Mi'gmaq people were a sovereign nation. These treaties do not contain any words of surrendering rights or title

to our territory. Therefore, we as the Mi'gmaq people of Gespe'gewa'gi believe we have title to Gespe'gewa'gi and the right to govern and steward our lands and waters as we see fit.

“Over the millennia of living in Mi'gma'gi we Mi'gmaq established a code of behaviour and a system of principles and laws which allowed for the effective management of our territory” (Ladner in Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi, 2016).

As sovereign over Gespe'gewa'gi, we expect that other governments will work in good faith to obtain our free, prior and informed consent regarding decisions about the use of our territory. The TGT is an expression of our expectations for conduct on our unceded territory.

Stewardship is our right and sacred responsibility

The TGT will be grounded in our inherent rights and responsibilities to care for the land and waters for present and future generations, including stewardship principles reflected in [Netukulimk](#)—a Mi'gmaq law-based concept guiding sustainable resource protection, procurement, and management.

The TGT also advances shared stewardship and cooperative management approaches with federal and provincial governments, consistent with Mi'gmaq sharing values.

As a signatory to UNDRIP, Canada must recognize that the preparation and implementation of the TGT is a Mi'gmaq right. UNDRIP specifies that Indigenous peoples have rights to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions; rights to lands, territories, resources, and environmental protection; and rights to engagement through Indigenous representative institutions, in good faith, to obtain free, prior and informed consent about decisions that affect their territories. UNDRIP will inform how the TGT is interpreted, applied, and updated, and how the Mi'gmaq engage with other governments and proponents.

Mandate and core functions (implementation powers)

The TGT will be prepared and implemented by MMS on behalf of Mi'gmaq leadership and communities (consistent with Mi'gmaq governance structures). At the direction of the MM, MMS will ensure that the TGT:

- Maintains land and water zoning/designations, policies, maps, and standards; issues interpretations; manages amendments and variances through a transparent process.
- Is used to assess proposed projects, authorizations, and land dispositions for consistency with the TGT; identifies conditions, avoidance areas, buffers, no-development zones, and mitigation measures.
- Implements “no net harm” and “water first” approaches where appropriate; enables the tracking of cumulative impacts and triggers for additional safeguards.
- Sets land and water resource use expectations, verifies outcomes, and recommends enforcement or remedies through Mi'gmaq and/or intergovernmental mechanisms.



6) Proposed Planning Area & Timeframe

This section proposes the geographic and temporal scope of the TGT.

Proposed Planning Area

The TGT Planning area is proposed to encompass all the lands and waters of Gespe'gewa'gi that are within Canadian borders including the Gaspé Peninsula and parts of Québec, northern New Brunswick (north of the St. John watershed) and extending east over the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence past Anticosti Island and the Magdalen Islands to the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador (Figure 2).

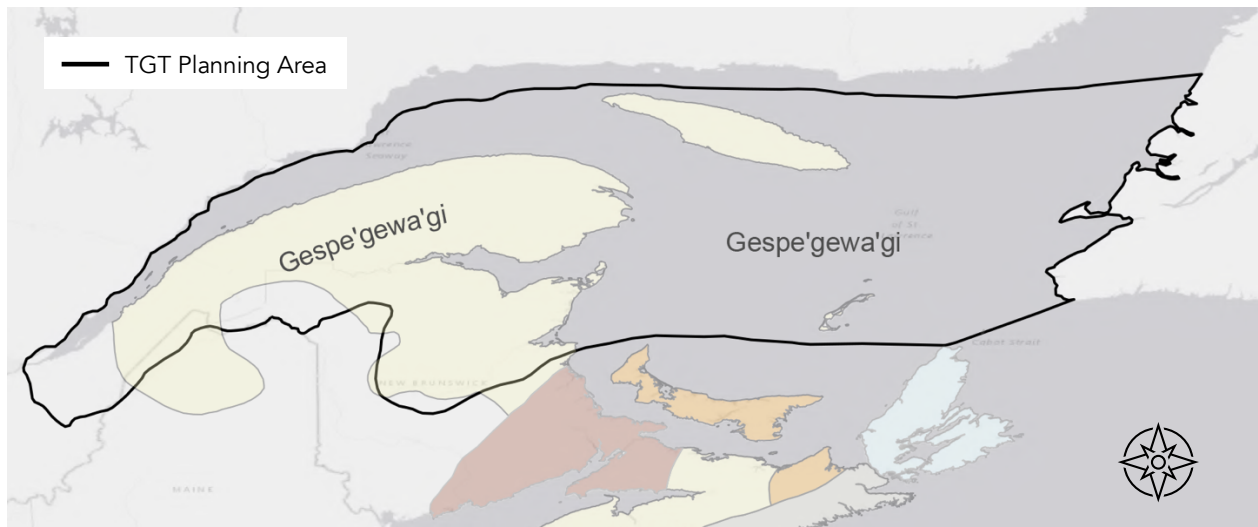


Figure 2 TGT Planning Area

Within the planning area, there are eight First Nations communities including:

- Esgenoopetitj First Nation
- Gesgapegiag First Nation
- Gespeg First Nation
- Listuguj First Nation
- Madawaska Maliseet First Nation
- Pabineau First Nation
- Ugpi'Ganjig First Nation
- Wolastoqiyik Wamspekwik First Nation

While the plan is being created by and for the First Nations of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj, other First Nations with overlapping interests in Gespe'gewa'gi will be consulted in the creation of the TGT. Maintaining good relationships with neighboring First Nation communities will be a priority and consideration throughout the creation of the TGT. The TGT is intended to provide guidance for Gespeg, Gesgapegiag, and Listuguj and MMS decision-making in Gespe'gewa'gi and does not intend to impose on decision-making processes and authorities held by other Mi'gmaq Nations in Gespe'gewa'gi. Further, the TGT will not apply to reserve lands or lands being considered as additions to reserve. The TGT will respect each First Nations' unique values and jurisdictions based on our values of *Gepmite'taqan* (respect), and *Ta'n telitpi'taqati'gw* (sharing).

Planning Timeframe

The TGT will be a living document that is responsive to ongoing social, economic, environmental, and political changes. The temporal scope of the TGT should reflect the needs of the current population and the needs of the next seven generations. To ensure the TGT remains relevant, it should be reviewed at minimum every five years, or more often as needed. The TGT will also include an interactive digital mapping component that can be updated more frequently to reflect changes in the land and water uses and other information.



7) Planning Context

The following is a brief description of the planning area's people, land use and management, environment, economy and infrastructure. A more detailed description of the current state of Gespe'gewa'gi will be prepared in the next planning phase.

People

There are roughly 750,000 people living within our planning area as of January 2026³. In Quebec, the planning area overlaps with what is now the Administrative Regions of Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Bas-Saint-Laurent, and parts of Chaudière-Appalaches. The major cities within the planning area include Rimouski, Matane, Gaspé, Chandler, Cap-aux-Meules, and Lévis. A vast majority of the population of Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (more than 90%) live in rural areas. In Bas-Saint-Laurent and Chaudière-Appalaches, less than 50% live in rural areas (Gouvernement du Québec, 2026a, 2026b, 2026c, 2026d). The portion of Gespe'gewa'gi in New Brunswick predominantly includes the Northeast administrative region, home to approximately 161,000 people. Cities in the region include Bathurst, Campbellton, and Miramichi. The majority (70%) of the population of Northeast New Brunswick is rural (Government of New Brunswick, 2025).

Our two Mi'gmaq communities - Listuguj (population of 4,423) and Gesgapegiag (1,709) - have approximately 46% and 42% of their populations, respectively, living on-reserve. Our third community of Gespeg (population 2,127⁴) does not have a reserve but is in the process of attaining a land base. Our closest service centers are Campbellton (NB), New Richmond, and Gaspé. The population in the regions of Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Bas-Saint-Laurent are expected to decrease, while some growth is expected in Chaudière-Appalaches. The population growth of our three communities remains positive.

French is the most widely spoken official language in Gespe'gewa'gi. Within the planning area, Northeastern New Brunswick has the highest share of people whose official language is English (38%). The Mi'gmaq language is the most spoken

³ Overlapping provincial administrative areas will be refined in the next planning phase and are approximated here.

⁴ Populations for Gespeg, Gesgapegiag and Listuguj as of January 2026 (Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, 2026).

Indigenous language in Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (Government of New Brunswick, 2025; Statistics Canada, 2023).

Crown Lands and Municipalities

Most of the lands within Gespe'gewa'gi in Quebec are public (Crown) lands, and private lands are located along the coast. Of the Crown lands, there are provincial parks and protected areas, such as harvest controlled areas (ZECs), Reserve fauniques des Chic-Chocs (and other smaller wildlife reserves), Parc National de la Gaspésie, and Parc National de Forillon near Gaspé. Anticosti Island is protected (recently added to a tentative list of World Heritage Sites) UNESCO status. Other Crown land uses include forestry, mining, and over 1800 vacation lot leases. The region also supports aquaculture licenses for mainly mussels, scallops, lobster, oyster, clams, urchins, kelp, and algae. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have been proposed for portions of the Bas-Saint-Laurent and Baie des Chaleurs. The Bancs des Américains is an existing MPA near Gaspé.

In previous land and occupancy studies conducted by MMS, there were four main regions where traditional land uses are concentrated. These areas coincide with major watersheds within Gespe'gewa'gi, namely: the (1) Nouvelle/ Escuminac/ Kempt watershed; (2) the Cascapedia watershed; (3) the Petite Cascapedia watershed; (4) and the York/ Saint-Jean/ Dartmouth watershed.

The planning area overlaps with three Quebec Administrative regions and within those regions are twenty-one Municipal Regional Counties (MRCs). There are several local municipalities (Cities, Villages) within each of the MRCs (Table 1).

Table 1: Municipal Boundaries within Gespe'gewa'gi (Quebec)

Quebec Administrative Region	MRC (Municipal Regional County)
Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (2025)	Avignon
	Bonaventure
	Communauté maritime des Îles-de-la-Madeleine
	La Côte-de-Gaspé
	La Haute-Gaspésie
	Le Rocher-Percé
Bas-Saint-Laurent	La Matanie

	La Matapédia
	La Mitis
	Les Basques
	Rimouski-Neigette
	Rivière-du-Loup
	Témiscouata
	Kamouraska
Chaudière-Appalaches (selected municipalities that fall on or above Route 73)	L'Islet
	Montmagny
	Bellechasse
	Les Etchemins
	Lévis
	Beauce-Centre/Robert-Cliché
	La Nouvelle-Beauce

The planning area overlaps with the Northeastern Region in New Brunswick, falling into the jurisdiction of five regional service commissions (Table 2). These contain Local government entities (representing incorporated areas) and Rural districts (unincorporated areas; Government of New Brunswick, 2021). The majority of the Gespe'gewa'gi in Northern New Brunswick is Crown Land, followed by private woodlots. There are also some Industrial Freehold, private land owned by forestry companies (SGS, 2018). Land uses also include National Parks controlled by the federal government, for example the Kouchibouguac National Park. The Protected Natural Areas, run by the Provincial Government (CPAWS, 2017), are also present, such as the Jacquet River Gorge Protected Natural Area. Many protected areas are Class II which allow for low impact recreational practices and traditional food gathering activities (Government of New Brunswick, n.d.). Provincially run parks such as the Sugarloaf Park also overlap with Gespe'gewa'gi.

Table 2 – Boundaries within Gespe'gewa'gi (New Brunswick)

Regional service commission (RSC) Code	Regional service commission (RSC) Name
RSC 1	Northwest regional service commission
RSC 2	Restigouche regional service commission
RSC 3	Chaleur regional service commission
RSC 4	Acadian regional service commission
RSC 5	Greater Miramichi regional service commission

Environment

The region covers a diverse range of environmental characteristics, from coastal maritime ecosystems up to the high tundra of the Chic-Choc mountains. The region is defined by its water and waterways, supporting highly productive salmon rivers flowing from the mountains to the sea. The forests fall into two main categories – mixed forests at lower elevations and boreal forests at higher elevations. These forests support a variety of important large and small mammal species, including moose, deer and black bears. The Chic Choc caribou herd is listed by COSEWIC as a threatened species. Their population has declined from approximately 750 in the early 1950s, to 140 in 2018, and 36 as of October 2025. Causes for declines are mixed including predation, climate change, forestry and mining encroachment (Dr. Carole Ann Gilles, Pers. Comm., 2025; ECCC, 2006).

The warm waters of the Baie des Chaleur create a uniquely rich environment for kelp, crab, lobster, shrimp, mussels and other species. There are several unique species that are only found in this region and many species that are endangered or threatened.

Fish populations are in decline. There are precipitous declines in salmon populations in the Saint-Jean, York and Dartmouth Rivers in the northeast part of the Gaspé peninsula between 2023 – 2025 (Guylain Cotton Pers. Comm., Nov. 2025). Rising water temperatures in the Baie des Chaleurs have resulted in more observations of Great White Sharks, increased seal populations, and declining salmon populations (Dr. Carole Ann Gilles, Pers. Comm., Nov. 2025).

In Northern New Brunswick, forests (including the Acadian forest), coastlines, wetlands, are key ecosystems in the area. The region is home to several ecoregions including the Northern uplands, the Highlands and the Eastern lowlands. Kejwik, Upsalquitch,

Tabusintac, and Tatgouche are some of the Ecodistricts found in the area. Balsam fir, white birch, black and white spruce are some tree species predominantly found in the north. Characteristic water bodies include the Restigouche, Upsalquitch, Tetagouche, Jacquet, Northwest Miramichi rivers and the Baie des Chaleur (New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources, 2007). Biodiversity in the region is facing threats due to invasive species, environmental degradation, among other reasons (Parks Canada, 2025).

Economy

The economy in Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine is predominantly focused on natural resource exploitation, and so the health of the region's natural resources is paramount. Quebec's commercial marine fishing is predominant in Gaspé Peninsula, the Magdalen Islands, and the North Shore. In 2020, commercial fish landings in Gaspésie, Bas-Saint-Laurent and Îles-de-la-Madeleine represented more than 70% of Quebec's fish landings (Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation, 2022). Gespeg holds a commercial fishing license for harvesting sea cucumbers in Zone C on the north shore of the Gaspé peninsula and for lobster on the east coast of Anticosti Island.

Tourism and recreation are also major contributors to the regional economy. Salmon populations attract many tourists to the region, particularly to the twenty-two big salmon rivers in the region, including the York, Cascapedia, Matapedia and the Restigouche. Percé Rock and the gannet colony of Île Bonaventure, in the village of Percé, are often noted as the most important tourist attractions in eastern Québec. Numbers of vacation lots are steadily increasing in the area, with leases doubling since 2011 (D. Curruthers Pers. Comm., May 2025). Tourism and recreation activities are promoted in the regions three provincial parks: Parc National de la Gaspésie, Miguasha National Park, and Parc National de l'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé, and one federal national park: Forillon National Park. The popular Appalachian Trail traverses the region and starts/ends at Cap Gaspé in Forillon National Park.

In 2023, the federal government provided over \$1M in funding to tourism businesses in the Gaspésie under the federal Tourism Relief fund to bolster tourism businesses impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic (Government of Canada, 2023) and invested another \$2.8M for tourism businesses in 2025 (Government of Canada, 2025).

Wind energy is an emerging sector and is expected to generate economic benefits in the region (Boulais-Préseault, 2026; Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, 2025). There is a potential of 6,000 MW with investments worth up to \$18 billion in the regions of Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Bas-Saint-Laurent (Boulais-Préseault, 2026) and our communities will be involved in this in partnership with Hydro Quebec, and local municipalities (Fred Vicaire, Pers. Comm., November 2025). In addition, the Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi Business Corporation (MMBC) has partnerships with East Coast Wind through Mesgi'g Ugju's'n wind projects (MMBC, 2026).

The information and communications technology sector is also recognized as an emerging industry in Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine (Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, 2025).

There is also a resurgence in mining to respond to growing demand for critical minerals. For example, there are currently 63,000 active claims in the territory involving 1,001 companies, up 120% since 2011 (D. Curruthers Pers. Comm., May 2025). Osisko is planning to re-open the Gaspé Copper Project in Murdochville, QC (Osisko Metals, 2026), and planning is underway for the Dalhousie Pozzolan Project (aggregates) in Dalhousie, NB on the Baie de Chaleurs (Ecorock Dalhousie, 2026).

In northeast of New Brunswick, employment in fishing, aquaculture, seafood production, and forestry sectors are significantly higher than in the rest of the province (Government of New Brunswick, 2025).

Infrastructure

Our planning area is connected by several provincial highways (Quebec Routes 132, 195 and New Brunswick Routes 8 and 11), and ferries operate from four main deep-water ports including Chandler, Gaspé, Matane, and Rimouski in Quebec. The main deep-water port in Northern New Brunswick is the Port of Belledune and in 2024, the Government of Canada committed \$17 million towards its expansion (World Port News, 2024).

The Gaspésie region was connected by rail up until 2013 when service was suspended because of poor rail conditions. However, work is now underway to rehabilitate and resume passenger and freight rail services between Matapédia and Gaspé which is estimated for completion in 2027 (ReNew Canada, n.d.). There is a passenger rail service in Northern New Brunswick connecting cities such as Campbellton, Bathurst,

and Miramichi to Halifax and Montreal. The Canadian National Rail provides freight rail services in the Northern region.

There are four regional airports in the region including Bonaventure, Gaspé and Mont-Joli in Quebec and Bathurst in New Brunswick. Recent major investments in the region include \$304 million between 2025-2027 towards road development (work being done on Routes 132, 199) and \$55 million on airport runway in the Magdalen Islands (Boulais-Préseault, 2026).



8) Roles & Responsibilities for Preparing the TGT

The creation of the TGT will require the input and participation of various parties across Gespe'gewa'gi, including a planning team, planning advisors, community members, and decision makers. This section outlines the proposed roles and responsibilities of each.

TGT Planning Team

The TGT Planning Team is comprised of MMS Agnutmatesnu Ango'tmeq Nm'tginen (AGAN) staff and planning consultants, including Odonaterra Inc. They will be responsible for drafting the TGT Terms of Reference and the TGT, seeking out and applying for TGT funding, keeping the MM informed about the planning process, consulting with community members (including the TGT Planning Committee), partners, the Quebec and Canadian governments, and proponents. They will also be responsible for conducting and/or delegating conduct of studies and research to support the TGT creation and implementation.

TGT Planning Committee

The TGT Planning Committee is comprised of three knowledge holders from each of the three Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gmaq communities and was established in January 2026 based on a public notice sent to all three communities in November 2025.

The members of the Planning Committee are in Appendix A. The Planning Committee will be engaged by the Planning Team in all phases of the preparation of the TGT to ensure it aligns with Mi'gmaq values and is created with accurate and current information.

Staff and Mi'gmaq Organization Advisors

The Planning Team will work closely to seek information and advice from staff and Mi'gmaq organizations in Gespe'gewa'gi involved in managing natural resources, lands, environment, cultural programming, and economic development from each of the three communities. Also involved will be the Gespe'gewa'gi Institute of Natural Understanding (GINU), the Mi'gmaq Wolastoqey Indigenous Fisheries Management Association (AGHAMW), and the Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi Business Corporation (MMBC). These advisor and partners will be updated regularly throughout the planning process and asked to provide expert advice and recommendations.

Depending on interest, availability and knowledge, the planning advisors may draft sections of the TGT or its supporting documents and conduct studies in the TGT implementation phase.

Gespeg, Gesgapegiag, and Listuguj community members

Involving community members throughout the creation of the TGT will also be key to ensuring it accurately reflects the needs and values of each of the three communities. While there are many Mi'gmaq cultural similarities between Gesgapegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj First Nations, each community is unique. Therefore, it is important that the TGT reflects and strengthens the shared values of Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gmaq people, while also respecting each community's unique interests and concerns. Broad community member support for the TGT will be crucial for its success.

Chiefs and Councils of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj First Nations / Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi

For the TGT to be enacted, it will require the support and approval of the Chiefs and Councils of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj First Nations, the Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi (MM). The MM will also be engaged and updated throughout the creation of the TGT by the Planning Team to ensure the plan respects each community's unique interests and concerns.



9) TGT Consultation Activities

This section outlines the consultation activities proposed for our communities, other First Nations as well as with other governments, stakeholders and potential partners in the planning area.

Gespeg, Gesgapegiag and Listuguj Community Consultation

To ensure the TGT aligns with a unified Mi'gmaq vision and our values, various consultation activities will be conducted. Community members will have various opportunities to provide feedback on the TGT including in-person and online meetings, surveys and workshops to hear feedback on draft versions of the TGT. Consultation materials and activities will be available in French and in English.

Social media posts and information available on the MMS website will also be published regularly to provide timely information regarding the TGT and consultation activities.

To ensure the TGT reflects the full range of community perspectives, our goal is to consult community members with various backgrounds and identities including knowledge holders, Elders, youth, hunters, fishers, artists, language speakers, community groups, and land users. The goal is to offer various interactive events and incentives to encourage community participation in TGT events including:

- Community feasts,
- Door prizes,
- Online live events,
- Small group sessions,
- Individual interviews,
- Community feedback surveys,
- Focus groups, and
- Large Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gmaq gatherings.

Consultations with Other First Nations

To share information and garner support for the TGT, the Planning Team will seek out and listen to the perspectives of the neighbouring First Nation communities with overlapping interests in Gespe'gewa'gi.

The Planning Team will consult with the following First Nations:

- Eel River Bar First Nation
- Esgenoopetitj First Nation
- Madawaska Maliseet First Nation
- Pabineau First Nation
- Wolastoqiyik Wamspekwuk First Nation

Maintaining positive relationships with neighbouring Mi'gmaq communities is of upmost importance. The TGT must respect their jurisdiction and must not impede their rights and interests.

Consultations with Stakeholders and Potential Partners

To increase the success of the TGT, and garner support for its implementation, the TGT Planning Team will inform all relevant stakeholders about the TGT including other municipalities, provincial and federal governments, non-governmental organizations, industries, developers, and the public. Meetings and other communications methods will be used to share information about the TGT and may request input to strengthen it before it is finalized.



10) Planning Phases & Deliverables

The TGT will be prepared in phases. Each phase builds on the outcomes of the previous phase and will depend on securing the necessary funding. The planning phases are in Table 3.

Table 3: TGT Planning Phases

Phase	Phase Description	Comments / Notes
1	Pre-planning and funding applications	Completed March 2024; funded by MMS.
2	TGT Terms of Reference Preparation	October 2025-March 2026; funded by the Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects (ICCE)
3	TGT Preparation and Approval	April 2026 – March 2027; funding applications to ECCC, ICCE, and philanthropic organizations
4	TGT implementation	April 2027 and beyond; funding amounts and sources to be determined.

The preparation of this TGT ToR falls in Phase 2. The goal of the next phases is the preparation and approval of the TGT (Phase 3) and then its implementation (Phase 4). The timing, funding sources, objectives, and proposed activities for Phases 3 and 4 are detailed below.

PHASE 3: TGT Preparation and Approval

Timing:

April 2026 – March 2027

Funding Sources:

MMS has applied for funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to fund these activities through their Environmental Damages Fund. In addition, MMS is applying to several philanthropic organizations and the Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects (ICCE) to fund this planning phase.

Objectives:

- Prepare a comprehensive Background Research Report about the current state of Gespe'gewa'gi.
- Complete a Mi'gmaq Knowledge and Land Use Study to fill known gaps.

- Prepare the TGT based on the ToR approved in Phase 2.
- Engage communities (Gespeg, Gesgapegiag, Listuguj), other Indigenous rightsholders, stakeholders, partners, and governments in the preparation and review of the Draft TGT.
- Build partnerships with proponents, interest groups, stakeholders, governments, and municipalities that will support TGT implementation.



Proposed activities⁵

The proposed activities in this phase are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Phase 3 Proposed Activities

Task #	Task	Task Description	Timing
1	Prepare a Gespe'gewa'gi Background Research and Gaps Analysis Report	Conduct relevant research to gather existing information from sources such as MMS, the communities, government agencies, industry, as well as non-government organizations to support the development of the TGT. This information may include data relating to: • Existing documented Mi'gmaq land use and knowledge • Natural landscape features (i.e., elevation, watersheds, waterbodies) • Natural resource and development areas (i.e., mining, forestry, alternative energy) • Environmental initiatives and current conditions (i.e., wildlife, fish and water quality monitoring or restoration) • Infrastructure developments (i.e., roads, railways, transmission lines) • Provincial and federal land use interests or jurisdictional boundaries • Other land use information (i.e., wildlife reserves, municipalities, recreational areas)	April – December 2026
2	Establish mapping system	Augment the existing MMS Geographic Information System (GIS) with the additional spatial data gathered in Task 1. All acquired information will be converted, when possible, into spatial formats and compiled into a secure online GIS accessible to MMS and staff planning advisors to support the preparation of the	April 2026 - March 2027

⁵ Depending on funding.

		TGT. The results of spatial analysis of these datasets will inform mapping of land and marine management zones based on Mi'gmaq land use values, interests, and environmental features and their condition. The results will also identify any information gaps that will inform future studies or programs that can be undertaken in the TGT implementation phase. The mapping tool will be generated simultaneously with the TGT and will only be available to the three Mi'gmaq communities as it will contain confidential traditional use and cultural data. MMS and community staff will receive training to use the mapping tool to facilitate implementation of the TGT.	
3	Mi'gmaq Knowledge and Culture Study	We will address gaps in existing Mi'gmaq land use and knowledge datasets by interviewing ~20 Mi'gmaq knowledge holders in each of the three communities of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj (60 interviews total), to document their knowledge and uses of in-land and marine aquatic resources. Previous Mi'gmaq knowledge interviews were conducted in 2015 and mainly focused on in-land hunting and fishing activities. This project will build upon existing datasets by expanding the regional scope to include all Gespe'gewa'gi and verify existing data. The data collected will be placed in the secure online mapping database or Geographic Information System (GIS), for MMS to access and visualize this data to support the preparation of the TGT for land and resource development and protection decision-making.	July – September 2026
4	Drafting the TGT	The TGT will be drafted using the information compiled in the previous tasks and extensive community engagement detailed in Section 9 of this ToR. The TGT will identify areas where certain uses are permitted based on use, values, biodiversity hotspots, and interests. In the plan, there will be conditions and policy direction for the use of lands and water to address cumulative effects to Mi'gmaq culture and	October – December 2026

		ecosystems – such as applying the water first approach and decision-making framework created in earlier version of the TGT. The TGT will be a written document with supporting maps, along with a supporting GIS that will be available to MMS, and the communities of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj to inform consultations and decision-making. The TGT will be available in both English and French, with key sections translated to Mi'gmaq.	
5	Consultation and Engagement Activities	Consultation and engagement activities as outlined in Section 9 of this ToR will occur throughout the preparation of the TGT including for: • Background research • Involvement in the Knowledge and land use studies • Review of the draft TGT • Celebration of the approval of the final TGT	April 2026 - March 2027
6	Building Partnerships	The Planning Team will share information through correspondence and invite meetings to gather targeted input and garner support for the TGT from proponents, interest groups, stakeholders, governments and municipalities with overlapping interests in Gespe'gewa'gi.	January – March 2027

PHASE 4: TGT Implementation

Timing:

April 2027 - Ongoing

Funding Sources:

To be determined depending on the priority actions arising from the preparation of the TGT.

Objectives:

- Implement the priority actions identified in the TGT.
- Review and evaluate the TGT at least every 5 years or more often as needed to ensure the plan is effectively responding to Mi'gmaq needs related to management of Gespe'gewa'gi.
- Continue to build and nurture partnerships to achieve the goal of the TGT.
- Ensure adequate human and other resources to support TGT implementation.
- Provide ongoing training to MMS and community staff about the TGT and its supporting GIS.
- Continue to maintain and update the information in the supporting GIS tool.

Proposed activities⁶

Activities will be determined depending on the priority actions arising from the preparation of the TGT. Other activities to meet objectives will likely include:

- Community, leadership and advisor consultations to evaluate the effectiveness of the TGT.
- Meetings with potential and current partners to update on TGT progress and continue to build support.
- Maintaining a staff member at MMS to champion TGT implementation.
- Annual training courses to refresh MMS and community staff on TGT and support GIS implementation.
- Meetings with advisors to update information available in the GIS tool.

⁶ Depending on funding.

11) References

- Boulais-Préseault, M. (2026). Région administrative de la Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine. <https://www.desjardins.com/content/dam/pdf/fr/particuliers/epargne-placements/etudes-economiques/region-administrative-11-gaspesie-iles-madeleine-20-janvier-2026.pdf>
- Canadian Association of Native Development Officers, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, Indigenous Works, National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association, & Board, N. I. E. D. (2022). *National Indigenous Economic Strategy for Canada (NIES)*. National Indigenous Economic Development Board (NIEDB). <https://niestrategy.ca/>
- Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions. (2025). Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine. Government of Canada. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/about/regional-information/gaspesie-iles-de-la-madeleine.html>
- CPAWS. (2017, December 8). *Parks and Protected Areas—CPAWS New Brunswick*. Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society New Brunswick. <https://cpawsnb.org/campaigns/parks-and-protected-areas/>
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. (2026). *First Nation Profiles* [Fact sheet; resource list]. <https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/index.aspx?lang=eng>
- Ecorock Dalhousie. (2026). <https://www.ecorock.com/en>
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). (2006). Gaspésie woodoand caribou recovery plan 2002-2012. Accessed January 2026 from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/recovery-strategies/gaspesie-woodland-caribou-2002-2012/chapter-4.html>
- First Nations Information Governance Centre. (2026). The First Nations Principles of OCAP®. Accessed from: <https://fnigc.ca/ocap-training/>
- Government of Canada. (2023). News release: Thirteen organizations receive a total of over \$1M in financial assistance from CED. Accessed from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/news/2023/11/thirteen-projects-will-help-enhance-tourism-experience-in-gaspesie-region-thanks-to-government-of-canada-support.html>.
- Government of Canada. (2025). News release: Gaspésie: \$2.8M from Government of Canada to stimulate economic growth. Accessed from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/news/2025/01/gaspesie-2-8m-from-government-of-canada-to-stimulate-economic-growth.html>

[regions/news/2025/03/gaspesie-28m-from-government-of-canada-to-stimulate-economic-growth.html](https://www.gouvernement.qc.ca/en/regions/news/2025/03/gaspesie-28m-from-government-of-canada-to-stimulate-economic-growth.html)

Gouvernement du Québec. (2026a). *Portraits des régions administratives*.

Gouvernement du Québec. <https://www.quebec.ca/gouvernement/portrait-quebec/geographie-territoire/regions-administratives>

Gouvernement du Québec. (2026b). *Portrait socioéconomique de la Chaudière-Appalaches*. Gouvernement du Québec.

<https://www.quebec.ca/gouvernement/ministeres-organismes/economie/publications/portraits-socioeconomiques/chaudiere-appalaches>

Gouvernement du Québec. (2026c). *Portrait socioéconomique du Bas-Saint-Laurent*.

Gouvernement du Québec. <https://www.quebec.ca/gouvernement/ministeres-organismes/economie/publications/portraits-socioeconomiques/bas-saint-laurent>

Gouvernement du Québec. (2026d, January 7). *Portrait socioéconomique de la Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine*. Gouvernement du Québec.

<https://www.quebec.ca/gouvernement/ministeres-organismes/economie/publications/portraits-socioeconomiques/gaspesie-iles-de-la-madeleine>

Government of New Brunswick. (2025). *Regional Profile Northeast New Brunswick*.

Government of New Brunswick. <https://www.nbjobs.ca/sites/default/files/2025-08/2025-07-02-LMI-NEProfile-Report-EN.pdf>

Government of New Brunswick. (2021). *Working together for vibrant and sustainable communities*. Gespe'gewa'gi.

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Corporate/Promo/localgovreform/docs/WhitePaper-EN-Web.pdf>

Government of Quebec, Ministère de Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation et Ministère de la Culture et des Communications. 2023. *Living Smart, Building Smart 2023-2027 Implementation Plan for Quebec's National Architecture and land Use Planning Policy (Translated from French)*.

Mi'gmawei, Mawio'mi Business Corporation. 2026.

<https://www.mmcorporation.ca/projects>

Mi'gmawei, Mawio'mi Secretariat. 2016. *Nta'tugwaqanminen Our Story Evolution of the Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gmaq*.

Mi'gmawei, Mawio'mi Secretariat. (2016). *Values, Interests and Visions ('VIV') survey*.

New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources. (2007). *Our Landscape Heritage (Second)*. Government of New Brunswick.

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/erd/forestry-conservation/content/ProtectedNaturalAreas/OurLandscapeHeritage.html>

Osisko Metals, 2026. <https://osiskometals.com/projects/gaspe-copper-quebec/overview/>

Parks Canada. (2025, March 13). *Ecosystems of Kouchibouguac*. Government of Canada. <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/nb/kouchibouguac/nature/eco>

ReNew Canada. (n.d.). *Gaspésie Railway Rehabilitation Project – ReNew Canada*. Retrieved January 29, 2026, from <https://www.renewcanada.net/the-projects/gaspesie-railway-rehabilitation-project/>

Statistics Canada. (2023). *2021 Census of Population* [Dataset]. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

World Port News. (2024). *Canada Reveals Major Port Investment*. World Ports Org. <https://www.worldports.org/canada-reveals-major-port-investment/>

Personal Communications:

Dr. Carole Ann Gilles, Manager, GINU

Fred Vicaire, General Manager, MMBC

Guylain Cotton, Fish and Wildlife Manager, Gespeg

David Curruthers, Planner working with MMS

Images:

All images in this document are from various locations and landmarks across Gespe'gewa'gi. Images were taken by Jaime Malone, Community Impact and Communications Specialist, Odonaterra Inc, between 2022 and 2025.

Appendix A: Planning Committee and Advisors

The TGT Planning Committee members (as of January 2026) include:

- Charlie Bernard (Gesgapegiag)
- Stephen Jerome (Gesgapegiag)
- William Jerome (Gesgapegiag)
- Darlene Williams (Gespeg)
- Laura Comeau (Gespeg)
- Serge Trudel (Gespeg)
- Mary Bradstreet (Listuguj)
- Ricky Condo (Listuguj)

The Staff and Organization Advisors for the TGT include:

Organization	Staff & Mi'gmaq Organization Advisors
Gespeg Staff	Connie Jacques, Claudie Carignan, Sylvie Curadeau, Johanne Basque, Guylain Cotton, Jessica Jean Morin, and Fanny Langlois Marc Sinnette
Gesgapegiag Staff	Sarah Jerome, Pierre Desmeules, Christina Burnsed, and Bonnie Jerome
AGHAMW	Dr. Catherine Lambert
Listuguj Natural Resources	Dr. Fred Metallic
GINU	Dr. Carole-Anne Gillis
MMBC	Fred Vicaire