



August 26, 2018

About the Framework Agreement

We are sending you this in acknowledgement of your interest in our Nation's rights.

Our Nation's treaty relationship with the Crown began in 1725. We renewed it in September, 2016.

Our modern relationship with the Governments of Canada and New Brunswick really began in January, 2016, when Minister of Indigenous Affairs Carolyn Bennett promised that she would ask for a mandate from the federal cabinet to begin comprehensive negotiations. That mandate arrived in the summer of 2017. Since that time, we have been working with Canada and with New Brunswick on a Framework Agreement that will guide the negotiating process.

A Framework Agreement is the Crown's usual way to begin negotiations about the substance of treaties, rights and claims.

We have attached a full copy of the Framework Agreement.

It took us two years to negotiate this document. That compares well with similar agreements that have been signed with the Mi'kmaq and Wolastokiyik (Maliseet) nations in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, who took over ten years for each of their agreements. We had the advantage of their experience. We have also been dealing with a more receptive Government of Canada. Our agreement is the first that the Government of Canada will make in ten years.

Compared to other agreements, this agreement places much more emphasis on the treaty relationship. It also avoids the kind of complicated

Canadian legal language that other agreements have used. The agreement gives equal respect to our legal system. It is a nation-to-nation agreement. It sets the tone for our future negotiations.

This agreement is not perfect. It is the product of compromises on all three sides. Consider it a map of the important things we have not agreed about yet.

The Framework Agreement is about process, not substance. As a result, the federal and provincial governments insisted that the agreement would not be legally binding, except for the parts that protect the confidentiality of the negotiations. At the community meetings over the past two years, we have taken care to report on the negotiations, as they have proceeded.

It is important to us that the matters we resolve with the Crown should have full, free and informed consent. But there are several reasons why we are proceeding in this way. The agreement is not legally binding. We have not yet firmed up our membership list. The federal and provincial governments are also treating this as a procedural rather than substantive agreement. There is urgency because a federal election is coming in October, and without a Framework Agreement, our negotiations could stall.

In many ways, we are rebuilding our own Nation's house at the same time as we are restoring our relationship with Canada. It is a complex, challenging task. We are grateful for the support of the people. This agreement is an important step along our path.

Woliwon,

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Peskotomuhkati at Skutik



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