



Administrative Policy #2025-02

Culturally Respectful Acknowledgment Policy

Purpose

Culturally Respectful Acknowledgment of Mi'kmaw Territory in Nova Scotia. We are all Treaty people, and our relationship is based on peace and friendship. Acknowledging Mi'kmaw traditional or ancestral territory is a way of showing respect for and honouring our shared Treaty relationship. It is one of many important steps we can take toward reconciliation.

Mi'kma'ki is the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq and includes seven districts which are found in what is now known as Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, and the Gaspé region in Quebec. In the 18th century, Mi'kmaq people and the British Crown entered historic Peace and Friendship Treaties, that created treaty relationships within Mi'kma'ki.

Culturally Respectful Acknowledgement that African Nova Scotians are a distinct founding people in Nova Scotia who have been a key part of the province's culture and history since 1605. African Nova Scotian people and communities are recognized and supported as an integral part of Nova Scotia's past, present and future.

Policy Statement

An acknowledgment is not intended to create any legally binding obligations or recognition of asserted claims.

Who may acknowledge Mi'kmaw territory?

- Only Mi'kmaq people should welcome others to their traditional territory.
- All other speakers are encouraged to acknowledge Digby is Mi'kmaw traditional territory.

The Town of Digby shall acknowledge the Mi'kmaw traditional territory at the following times:

- The first item on the agenda of a Council Meeting, Public Hearing, and Committee of the Whole meeting.
- At public events, or at the start of a speech or presentation.

CLASSIFICATION: Legislative – Council

- For larger events, a Mi’kmaq Elder (or community member) may be invited to provide an opening and share a welcome, prayer, song and/or smudge.
 - For smaller events or presentations, an acknowledgment of traditional territory would be more appropriate.
- It would not be necessary or appropriate to acknowledge traditional Mi’kmaq territory in writing in a provincial government document, strategy or report.
- Who may acknowledge Mi’kmaq territory?
 - Only Mi’kmaq people should welcome others to their traditional territory.
 - All other speakers are encouraged to acknowledge Nova Scotia is Mi’kmaq traditional territory.

Culturally Respectful Acknowledgement of African Nova Scotians may follow the acknowledgement of the Mi’kmaq Territory

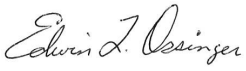
Policy

The Council of the Town of Digby adopts the following land acknowledgement of the Mi’kmaq Territory

“I/we would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi’kma’ki (MEEG-MA-GEE), the traditional (or ancestral) territory of the Mi’kmaq people”.

And adopts African Descent the following acknowledgement which shall follow the land acknowledgement of the Mi’kmaq Territory:

“We also acknowledge that people of African descent have been in Nova Scotia for over 400 years, and we honour and offer gratitude to those ancestors of African descent who came before us to this land.”

Clerk's Annotation for Official Policy Book	
Date of Notice: January 20, 2025	
Date of adoption: February 3, 2025	
Policy effective date: February 4, 2025	
I certify that this Culturally Respectful Acknowledgment Policy was adopted by Council as indicated above.	
 _____	<u>February 4, 2025</u>
Clerk	Date