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## **Principles of Mi'kmaw Ancestral Remains Protocols**

These are to be used to guide all matters relating to Mi'kmaw ancestral remains

### **Basic Principle**

Ancestors should be left to rest and their remains should not be disturbed.

This is the foundation of all policies and procedures developed by the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia regarding ancestral remains.

### **Guiding Principles**

1. Mi'kmaq are the authorities regarding the care and control of the remains of Mi'kmaw ancestors.

All L'nu'k in Mi'kma'ki, including Ancient People, are considered Mi'kmaw ancestors. Their care is a responsibility of the Mi'kmaq.

2. Remains include remains of individuals, their graves and their burial sites.
3. The Lead Chief of the Culture, Heritage and Archaeology Portfolio is the Assembly-appointed Chief responsible for matters involving Mi'kmaw ancestral remains.
4. If suspected remains of Mi'kmaw ancestors are encountered, non-Mi'kmaw discoverers are asked to immediately contact the Archaeology Research Division at KMKNO on behalf of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, who will immediately inform the Lead Chief of the Culture, Heritage and Archaeology Portfolio to determine next steps.
5. No material removal is to occur prior to contacting the KMKNO unless the remains are in imminent danger of loss or destruction. Material removal from its place of discovery, if deemed necessary according to preceding sentence, must happen in a respectful and honourable manner.
6. If material has been removed, place in red fabric (such as felt) bundle tied with red string. Place bundles in a birch bark container if available. Make a tobacco offering (loose tobacco) in birch bark container, or in red bundles, if no birch bark container immediately available. Await feedback from KMKNO.
7. No testing or invasive procedures shall be carried out, unless deemed acceptable by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs in accordance with the guidance of their Elders and communicated through their designate.

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