

Statement of Principles Regarding Archaeological Resources

Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs

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Archaeological resources are defined as cultural landscapes, sites, features and artefacts and their associated records.

Burials are not included as archaeological resources as the remains of ancestors and their burial contexts are not archaeological but sacred sites. A Statement of Principles and protocols governed by those principles are defined elsewhere for burials and human remains.

Archaeological resources are valuable because:

1. they are an important part of our Mi'kmaw identity.
2. they demonstrate the ingenuity and expertise of our Mi'kmaw ancestors in developing and refining technologies and a mastery of ecological knowledge.
3. they are a valuable and non-renewable record of our cultural heritage.
4. they constitute a democratic record of our use and occupation of our traditional territory.
5. they provide evidence of Aboriginal rights and title.
6. they are embedded in the layers of the past draped over the land.
7. they help mark the cultural landscapes of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and our ancestors.
8. in conjunction with Mi'kmaw placenames, they foster understanding of this land, including submerged landscapes, from our Mi'kmaw perspective.
9. they provide a tangible link between today's Mi'kmaq and our ancestors and the lives lived by those ancestors.
10. they have intrinsic value as heritage resources.