

## Media Release

### Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and Parks Canada sign arrangement for three Parks Canada places in Nova Scotia

TRURO, Nova Scotia (June 13, 2012) — The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia now have entry without charge to Kejimikujik National Park/National Historic Site, Cape Breton Highlands National Park and the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site thanks to an interim arrangement recently signed by Parks Canada and the Nova Scotia Assembly of Mi'kmaq Chiefs.

This arrangement is a positive step forward in the relationship between two close neighbours who share many common objectives in cultural and natural resource management. "It is very much a roadmap for sharing knowledge as we work together to reach our common goals," said Chip Bird, Field Unit Superintendent for Parks Canada, Cape Breton. "This arrangement will go a long way to help strengthen Parks Canada's relationship with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia."

The entry without charge program is one outcome of the arrangement. "The Mi'kmaq have always had strong connections to the lands throughout Nova Scotia," said Chief Gerard Julian, Co-Chair of the Assembly. "Gaining free access to these parks and important lands is a significant step for our people and as we move forward in our government to government relationship."

Mi'kmaq may access this program by presenting their Indian Status Card at the local Band Office to receive a vehicle identifier. This identifier is for display in the vehicle when visiting either national park. At the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site, the Indian Status Card must be presented at the Visitor Reception Centre for entry to the fortified town.

The identifier is available to 13 Mi'kmaq First Nations in Nova Scotia and their members, and other Mi'kmaq who are on the General Indian List of Nova Scotia. In addition to the entry without charge program, this arrangement will result in the establishment of advisory committees to plan and manage areas of common interest in these three national treasures in Nova Scotia.

The arrangement was negotiated through the Made in Nova Scotia Process which brings together the Government of Canada, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

Parks Canada manages a network of 43 national parks, 167 national historic sites, and four national marine conservation areas, while setting the stage and inviting Canadians and people from around the world to engage in personal moments of inspiring discovery at Canada's treasured natural and historic places.

Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO) works on behalf of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs in the negotiations and consultations between the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, the Province and Canada. KMKNO was developed by the Mi'kmaq for the Mi'kmaq.



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For more information on KMKNO visit [www.mikmaqrights.com](http://www.mikmaqrights.com) and on Parks Canada visit [www.parkscanada.gc.ca](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca).

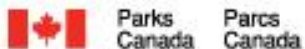
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