

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE MI'KMAQ

Mi'gma'gi

MI-GMA'GI OR MIK'MA'KI

In the beginning, the Mi'kmaq inhabited Mi'gma'gi (or Mik'ma'ki). This territory spanned what today is the Atlantic provinces and the southern Gaspé peninsula.

Mi'gma'gi was divided into seven districts: *Kespukwitk*, *Sipekni'katik*, *Eskikewa'kik*, *Unama'kik*, *Epekwitk aq Piktuk*, *Siknikt*, and *Kespek*.

THE FIRST PEOPLE OF THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES

The Mi'kmaq have occupied Mi'gma'gi since time immemorial. Oral tradition complemented by archeological evidence point to the presence of the Mi'kmaq in this area going back at least 10,500 years.

+10,500 years

SANTE' MAWIO'MI

GOVERNANCE

Mi'kmaq governed themselves through local and district Chiefs and Elders and, as a whole, through the Sante' Mawio'mi, or Grand Council. The Sante' Mawio'mi consisted of a seat for each of the seven *Nikanus* (District Chiefs) of Mi'gma'gi, seats for the *Kji-Keptin* (Grand Captain), the Putu's (Wampum reader, Recorder/Secretary), and the Grand Council Leader, the *Kji-Saqmaw* (Grand Chief).

NETUKULIMK

COEXISTENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

Netukulimk lies at the heart of Mi'kmaq society and practices. Netukulimk means stewarding the use of the natural resources provided by the Creator for the well-being of individuals, families, communities, nation, and eco-system. Netukulimk includes practices aimed at coexistence among people and among people and the land, animals, fish, and plants.

LAND

LAND ASSIGNMENTS

The Mi'kmaq were nomadic, and their movements around Mi'gma'gi were mediated by respect for the hunting territory of other Mi'kmaq families. Local and District Chiefs assigned territory to each family in the spring and in the autumn. Customary law enforced the rights of families to hunting privileges in their territory, and sanctioned trespassers. Land, however, was not viewed as something to be "owned" or possessed, but rather a resource that the Mi'kmaq had a sacred responsibility to steward.

THE RIGHT TO HUNT, FISH, & HARVEST FOR SUSTENANCE

Mi'kmaq have a legal right to hunt, fish, and harvest whenever and wherever they want to sustain themselves and to secure a moderate livelihood. This right is based on the Peace & Friendship Treaties and the Supreme Court of Canada decision in *R. v. Marshall*, [1999] 3 S.C.R. 456.

TREATY RIGHTS

LEARN MORE ABOUT MI'KMAQ TREATY AND FISHER RIGHTS:

[HTTPS://DRIVE.GOOGLE.COM/FILE/D/1U_LF_BCFBBSIJZQJGHNH4-MFPYZ0HFDV/VIEW?FBCLID=IWAR3V8LEJPW8673HOJ4S_KF-GCXS1_UUUUEY_S00AZWR5BNZ6Z0IQBIQ3EI](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U_LF_BCFBBSIJZQJGHNH4-MFPYZ0HFDV/VIEW?FBCLID=IWAR3V8LEJPW8673HOJ4S_KF-GCXS1_UUUUEY_S00AZWR5BNZ6Z0IQBIQ3EI)