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PEI Chiefs recognize Treaty Day, October 1

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On October 1, 2014, PEI Mi'kmaq leadership and community members will be celebrating Treaty Day. Treaty Day has been celebrated by the Mi'kmaq since 1986.

October 1 marks the date in the Treaty of 1752 when - in order to preserve good harmony - the promises of the Crown would be recognized and the friendship between the Mi'kmaq and the Crown would be renewed.

In 1993, the Government of Nova Scotia and the Mi'kmaq Grand Council proclaimed Treaty Day in that province; however, as of yet it has not been recognized on Prince Edward Island.

"Treaty Day has a profound significance to the Mi'kmaq people. It stands as a reminder of the promises made to achieve peace and harmony between the Mi'kmaq and the Crown. It also reminds us that much work is left to be done to ensure that those promises are kept," said Chief Matilda Ramjattan of Lennox Island First Nation.

"In the Treaty of 1752, October 1st marked a day for the promises of the Crown to be renewed and for leadership to meet. Like Nova Scotia, PEI is the home of the Mi'kmaq people – it is traditional Mi'kmaq territory," said Chief Brian Francis of Abegweit First Nation. "Recognition and celebration of Treaty Day here on Prince Edward Island would be a symbolic recognition of past promises and gesture of openness to a new partnership between the Mi'kmaq people and other orders of Government."

Background:

October 1 also marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia.

Treaty Days in other Canadian Provinces:

Saskatchewan: June 6

Manitoba: May 12

The Constitution Act of 1982 recognizes and affirms the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada.

The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI last requested the recognition of Treaty Day on PEI in 2007.

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