

Aaniin / Greetings Chief Sacks,

We have been appalled by the news from Digby Nova Scotia of the racist violence and assaults on Mi'kmaq lobster fishers and other members of the Sipekne'katik nation by commercial fishers and others in the local settler community. And worse by the failure of the RCMP and provincial and federal governments to intervene to protect 'Mi'kmaq fishers, members, property and to enforce your Treaty Rights as affirmed in the long standing SCC Marshall decision.

We are a group of settlers in Bobcaygeon, Ontario working for reconciliation through our group Truth and Reconciliation Community Bobcaygeon (TRC-Bobcaygeon) and wanted to express our solidarity and ask if there is anything else we can do to support you, other than call on the federal and provincial governments to honour your Treaty Rights and act to enforce them as they are legally required to do and in the spirit of reconciliation.

Your situation in Digby is unfortunately similar to a local conflict that we are familiar with - the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg and their right to harvest and tend the manoomin (wild rice) in the lakes in their territory which has been under attack by local lakeshore property owners for several years including illegal destruction of the manoomin beds. The federal government also seems to be reluctant to take a clear position in favour of enforcing Nishnaabeg harvesting rights and to explain to settlers that it is not an issue to be negotiated or of balancing different interests. It is a question of recognizing, honouring and enforcing inherent rights of the Nishnaabeg, as it is with the Treaty Rights of the Mi'kmaq.

It should go without saying that there is no place in Canada for racist attacks especially in the era of reconciliation. We are copying the Prime Minister, federal Ministers responsible and the Premier of Nova Scotia in order to call on them to take urgent action to protect the Mi'kmaq fishers, property and rights.

In solidarity,

Sherry Telford, Co-keeper  
Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley, Co-keeper  
Elaine Bird  
Rev. Ann Blane  
Glenna Burns  
Ann Davidson  
Sherry Hillman  
Sandy McMullen  
Drew Milligan  
Peter Raymond  
Brenda Wall

in Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg Territory

<https://trcbobcaygeon.org/>

cc. - Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
Hon. Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services  
Hon Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown - Indigenous Relations  
Hon. Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries  
Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia