

CONGRESS OF  
ABORIGINAL PEOPLES



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*For immediate release*

## **Mi'kmaq Rights Upheld by Nova Scotia Court of Appeal**

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Ottawa, ON

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) is delighted after the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal agreed that the province attempted to arbitrarily strip the inherent hunting and gathering rights from four members of the Native Council of Nova Scotia.

“This decision affirms that no matter where a Mi'kmaq person lives in Nova Scotia, their rights will follow them,” says CAP National Chief Elmer St. Pierre. “In this time of reconciliation, provinces must stop trying to extinguish our rights and work with us rather than against us.”

In 2019, four members of Native Council of Nova Scotia filed a class action lawsuit claiming the province unilaterally revoked identification cards that affirmed their hunting and gathering rights. Despite the province attempting to quash the lawsuit by appealing, the Court of Appeal will allow the class action lawsuit to proceed.

“Our People should not have to jump through these legal hoops in order to practice their cultures,” says National Chief St. Pierre. “In 2016 the Daniels Decision from the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed that Indigenous Peoples living off-reserve are indeed “Indians” under section 35 of the Canadian Constitution. Governments must immediately review that decision and act accordingly.”

CAP stands by our brothers and sisters at the Native Council of Nova Scotia and encourage all members to exercise their rights and cultures despite efforts to extinguish them.

### **Media Contact:**

Nigel Newlove  
Director of Media Relations  
n.newlove@abo-peoples.org  
613-286-9828

*The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is the national voice representing the interests of Métis, status and non-status Indians, and Southern Inuit Indigenous People living off-reserve. Today, over 80% of Indigenous people live off-reserve.*