



What is the Mi'kmaw Conservation Group (MCG)?

Kate Nelson, Mi'kmaw Conservation Group Communications Officer

The Mi'kmaw Conservation Group (MCG) is a program administered by The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM). The primary focus of MCG is education, research and fostering partnerships with stakeholders in relation to The Bay of Fundy Watershed. MCG is also working on projects that deal with Youth Mentorship/Capacity Building, Communications, Aquatic Resource Management, Ecosystem Health Assessment, Species at Risk and Habitat Restoration.

The MCG is guided by a group of First Nation Communities that have an interest in the protection and restoration in the Bay of Fundy Watershed. Currently, these Communities include:

- Annapolis Valley First Nation
- Glooscap First Nation
- Indian Brook First Nation
- Millbrook First Nation
- Pictou Landing First Nation
- Fort Folly First Nation

Today the Bay of Fundy Watershed, which was once so familiar, has changed due to commercial use, population growth, pollution and global warming. The Mi'kmaw Conservation endeavors to take on these and other challenges and make meaningful partnerships, to fulfill our mission:

"To Promote and Restore the concept of Netukulimk in the Bay of Fundy Watershed."

What does Netukulimk mean?

Aquatic life, and specifically the Fundy Watershed, is historically significant to the Mi'kmaq. From feeding our Communities healthy food, to the spiritual significance of species like the American Eel & Atlantic Salmon in ceremonies and feasts, the bounty of our oceans and streams and the protection of their habitat have always been at the forefront of our minds.

Prior to European contact, Mi'kmaq travelled and lived throughout the Fundy Watershed. The environment, natural resources and waterways provided all the necessities of life. To show respect the Mi'kmaw took only what was needed and wasted nothing. It was considered an honor to receive these gifts from Mother Earth and was the foundation of the spiritual connection between the Mi'kmaq and the natural environment which has endured to this day. Netuklimk is a way of life. It is taking what is needed for today and leaving some for tomorrow and future generations.

The MCG looks forward to working with First Nation Communities and other partners to keep the watershed, and the species that call it home, clean and healthy for future generations.

If you have any questions or would like more information about Mi'kmaw Conservation Group please feel free to contact us. We are located at 19 Brooks Lane, Millbrook First Nation, Truro NS.

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