



City of Iqaluit
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Statement from the Mayor

The Mayor of Iqaluit Stands in Solidarity with the Sipekne'katik First Nation and Condemns the Acts of Violence against Mi'kmaq Fishers

September 24, 2020 – Iqaluit, Nunavut

"The City of Iqaluit stands in solidarity with the Sipekne'katik First Nation, after Mi'kmaq Chiefs declared a State of Emergency in the wake of violence, intimidation, and racism over Mi'kmaq fisheries in Nova Scotia last week. I strongly condemn the acts that non-Indigenous fishers are using to prevent Mi'kmaq fishers to practice their right to fish in Nova Scotia.

These discriminatory and violent acts of intimidation, violence, and racism replicate the colonial-era violence associated with the systemic suppression and decimation of Indigenous rights. These actions represent a critical threat not only to the Mi'kmaq's welfare and safety, but to the collective rights and sovereignty of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit across the country.

The federal government must take action now to prevent non-Indigenous fishers from interfering with the Mi'kmaq and their rights to fish for their livelihood. Respecting the federal government's commitment under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, I hope that all levels of government engage in a safe and respectful dialogue to find the best path forward."

- Mayor Kenny Bell

For media related questions, please contact:

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