MUNICIPALITY of the
COUNTY of KINGS

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Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Suite 1500, 1809 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8
Attention: Executive Committee
Via regular mail & email

Dear Members of the Executive Committee,

The Municipality of the County of Kings is committed to reconciliation and recognizing the presence of Mi'kmaq Peoples across Mi'kma'ki. This letter is a formal request that the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) commit to displaying the Mi'kmaq Grand Council flag at conferences and events of the NSFM, where other flags are flown.

This initiative aligns with the mission of NSFM to facilitate strategic advocacy, collaboration, and education. Representation of the Grand Council flag promotes advocacy for Mi'kmaq self-determination and the rights guaranteed under the Peace and Friendship Treaties. It demonstrates collaboration by presenting the Mi'kmaq Nation's flag alongside other government flags and provides opportunities to educate about the flag's significance. Symbolizing traditional governance, culture, and spiritual beliefs across Mi'kma'ki, the flag was first raised in Listuguj, QC around 1900. Permanent representation at institutions is a meaningful step towards reconciliation, acknowledgement of Indigenous presence, and cultural revitalization.

A report prepared for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities suggests strategies for taking action to support the rights of Indigenous Peoples using a United National Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) framework. UNDRIP recognizes that Indigenous Peoples have the right to freely determine their political status and development and their future within the territories in which they traditionally lived. Displaying the Mi'kmaq Grand Council flag implements key UNDRIP framework actions, including:

1) Recognizing Indigenous rights-holders who hold ancestral, treaty, traditional, Indigenous and other legal and constitutionally protected rights and titles to the lands and waters on which municipalities are located.
2) Respecting and honouring Indigenous legal systems and creating space for their expression within municipal spheres.
3) Engaging with political organizations, institutions, and entities that Indigenous Peoples and communities themselves identify as legitimately representing their interests and memberships.

On behalf of Municipal Council, thank you for your consideration of this request.

In solidarity,

Mayor David L Corkum

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