

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Recreation Nova Scotia is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. Mi'kma'ki includes seven districts found in what is now known as Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and parts of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, the Gaspé region in Quebec and northeastern Maine. Mi'kma'ki is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship which the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1752. The Treaties of Peace and Friendship did not deal with the surrender of lands and resources; instead, they recognized Mi'kmaq title and outlined what would be an ongoing relationship between nations based on peace and friendship. We are all treaty people.

It is the intention of this booklet to support outdoor play and a connection with nature for all. To do this, we must first recognize how broken treaty relationships contributed to harm as it relates to Mi'kmaq Peoples' ability to remain connected to the land. This broken relationship has also resulted in attacks on Mi'kmaq language and culture through the Indian Act and residential schools. To contribute to understanding of Indigenous values about how to help children grow and learn, we have included content from Dr. Angela James on p.10.

Among the Mi'kmaq People, language and traditional story telling are an important tool to teach children about the natural world. However due to residential schools and other harmful practices, today the Mi'kmaq language is threatened. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples clearly recognizes language as a main tool used to communicate meaning, make sense of shared experiences and to pass culture from one generation to another. All readers are encouraged to explore the Mi'kmaq translation website and app provided below where you will be able to hear the pronunciation and see translations.

Despite injustices the Mi'kmaq People continue to show their strength and resiliency through the continued sharing of culture, traditions, and language. Many Mi'kmaq schools and childcares use nature and outdoor environments to teach students Mi'kmaq language and culture. By promoting the outdoors as an important environment for learning, joy and healthy child development, this booklet aims to instill a desire to protect, preserve and respect the natural environment for future generations living in Mi'kma'ki.

Recreation Nova Scotia also recognizes that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched the part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years. Crystal Watson, PhD candidate with Dalhousie University, notes "the health benefits of 'free play' for all are well established, but for Black and Indigenous children, it is not as easy as opening the front door and letting the kids outside". Ensuring play spaces are safe for all is important work of the recreation sector, and as Crystal notes "we know that it us up to all of us to make sure all kids have a place to play that is safe, and for Black and Indigenous children, this is critically important."



kinu.ca/mobile-apps
kinu.ca/app/lnuisuti



References:

Sable, T., & Francis, B. (2012). The language of this land, Mi'kma'ki . Cape Breton University Press.
native-land.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Mikmaq_Kekinamuek-Manual.pdf

This content forms part of a larger booklet entitled "Why Outdoor Play Matters for Children: A practical guide for parents and caregivers". To see the full booklet, and references, please go to recreationns.ns.ca.