

Native Council of Prince Edward Island

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCPEI Urges Study by Federal Government

September 14, 2016 (Charlottetown, PE) - The Native Council of PEI (NCPEI) is urging the Federal Government to conduct an engagement and reconciliation study with the Indigenous Peoples' Assembly of Canada (IPAC). The study should engage with Status, Non-Status, Inuit and Métis peoples residing off-reserve in response to the 2016 *Daniels v Canada* decision of the Supreme Court of Canada. With the recent recommendations made by the publication of the *Isaac Report* (2016), NCPEI believes the report set a clear direction for the federal government to engage and work with the Métis people of Manitoba. If a similar study was completed with the focus of engagement and reconciliation with off-reserve Aboriginal and Indigenous people of Canada, then a similar positive direction would ensue.

Exactly like the *Isaac Report* proclaims, a study with IPAC would pursue opportunity, and not be considered an impediment or challenge to the reconciliation between the Crown, federal and provincial governments, and off-reserve Aboriginal and Indigenous peoples. In light of the *Daniel's* decision, this reconciliation derives from the constitutionally protected rights of off-reserve Status and Non-Status Aboriginal or Indigenous people, protected by Section 35 and thus tied to the honour of the Crown.

“This is an opportunity for government to take a positive, proactive, and good-faith approach to reconciliation and building a newer, stronger relationship with the Aboriginal and Indigenous people who choose to live off-reserve through an Aboriginal representative organization of their choice.” President and Chief Lisa Cooper concluded, “As Indigenous peoples exercising and asserting our constitutional rights, we urge government to utilize the findings of the *Isaac Report* and apply them towards building a nation to nation relationship with the off-reserve Aboriginal and Indigenous people of Canada through IPAC.”

NCPEI is hopeful the federal government will take this request under serious consideration, and use the already existing pathway built by the *Isaac Report*. As a representative and advocate for Status, Non-Status, Inuit and Métis Peoples residing off-reserve NCPEI is determined to further build a new positive, productive, and nation to nation relationship with the Crown, federal, and provincial governments.

The Native Council of Prince Edward Island represents and advocates for Status, Non-Status, Inuit and Métis Peoples residing off-reserve on traditional Mi'kmaq territory in PEI and is committed to ensuring the off-reserve Indigenous Peoples of Canada are no longer situated in the jurisdictional wasteland that continues to marginalize and subjugate PEI's Indigenous peoples residing off-reserve as stated in Daniel's declaration and are asserting our Section 35 and 91(24) Constitutional rights. Furthermore, the NCPEI is exercising its right to independent recognition and distinct demonstration in accordance with *Delgamuukw v British Columbia* Supreme Court of Canada rulings.

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To schedule an interview with President and Chief Lisa Cooper, or for more information, contact:
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