

# The Mi'kmaw Forestry Initiative: Mimaju'nsuti, Netukulimk, & Etuaptmumk

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Maw-lukutijik **Saqmaq**  
Assembly of Nova Scotia  
Mi'kmaw Chiefs



Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn  
**Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative**  
Our Rights. Our Future.



The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

  
**NOVA SCOTIA**

**Canada** 



# Overview

- What is the Mi'kmaw Forestry Initiative?
- Project Origins
- Land Base
- Goals & Values
- Mi'kmaw Guiding Principles
- Community Engagement
- MFI Operations





# What is the Mi'kmaw Forestry Initiative?

- Province-wide initiative to develop and promote Mi'kmaw-led forestry, 13 Mi'kmaw communities
- Governed by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs, UINR & CMM Boards of Directors
- Steered by the Mi'kmaq Forestry Advisory Committee: Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative
- Partnership with Province of Nova Scotia, support from Government of Canada





# Project Origins

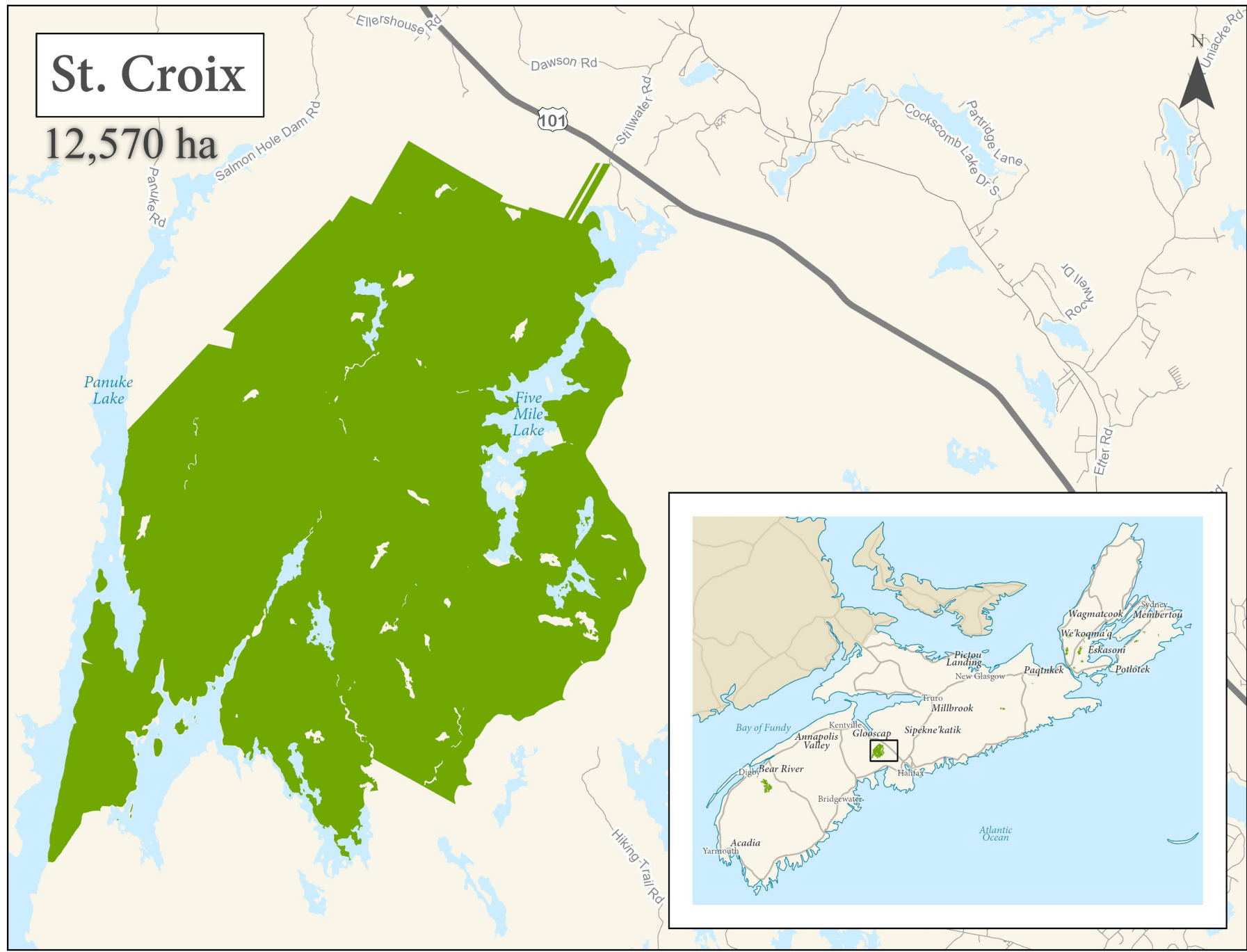
- Mi'kmaq & Province of N.S. worked towards a land agreement for nearly 10 years
- 2018, Lahey report, "An Independent Review of Forest Practices in Nova Scotia", recommended license agreement & incorporation of Mi'kmaq values into Province's forest management framework
- 2019, Mi'kmaw Forestry Initiative Pilot Forest Project
- Land base → over 30,000 hectares





# St. Croix

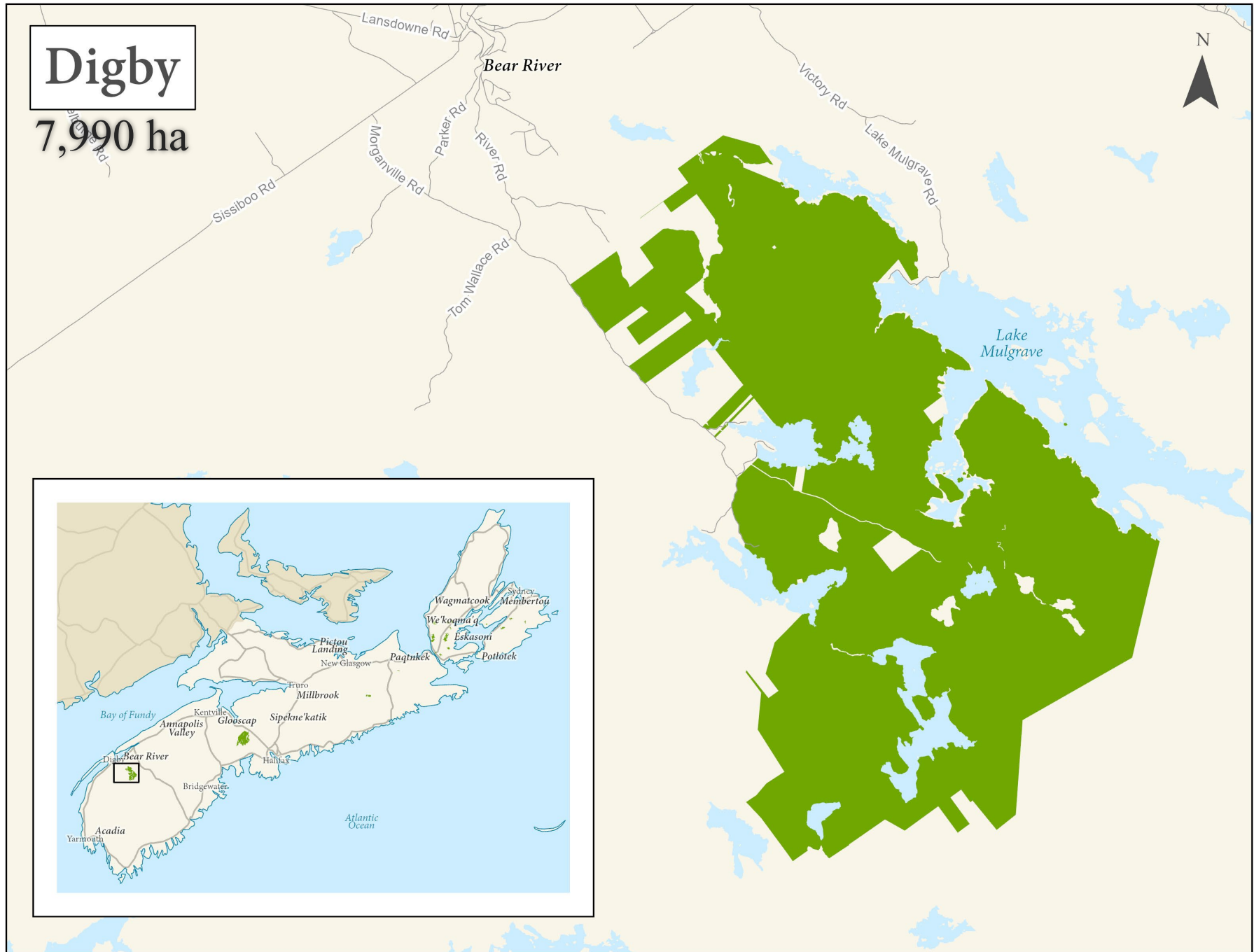
12,570 ha





# Digby

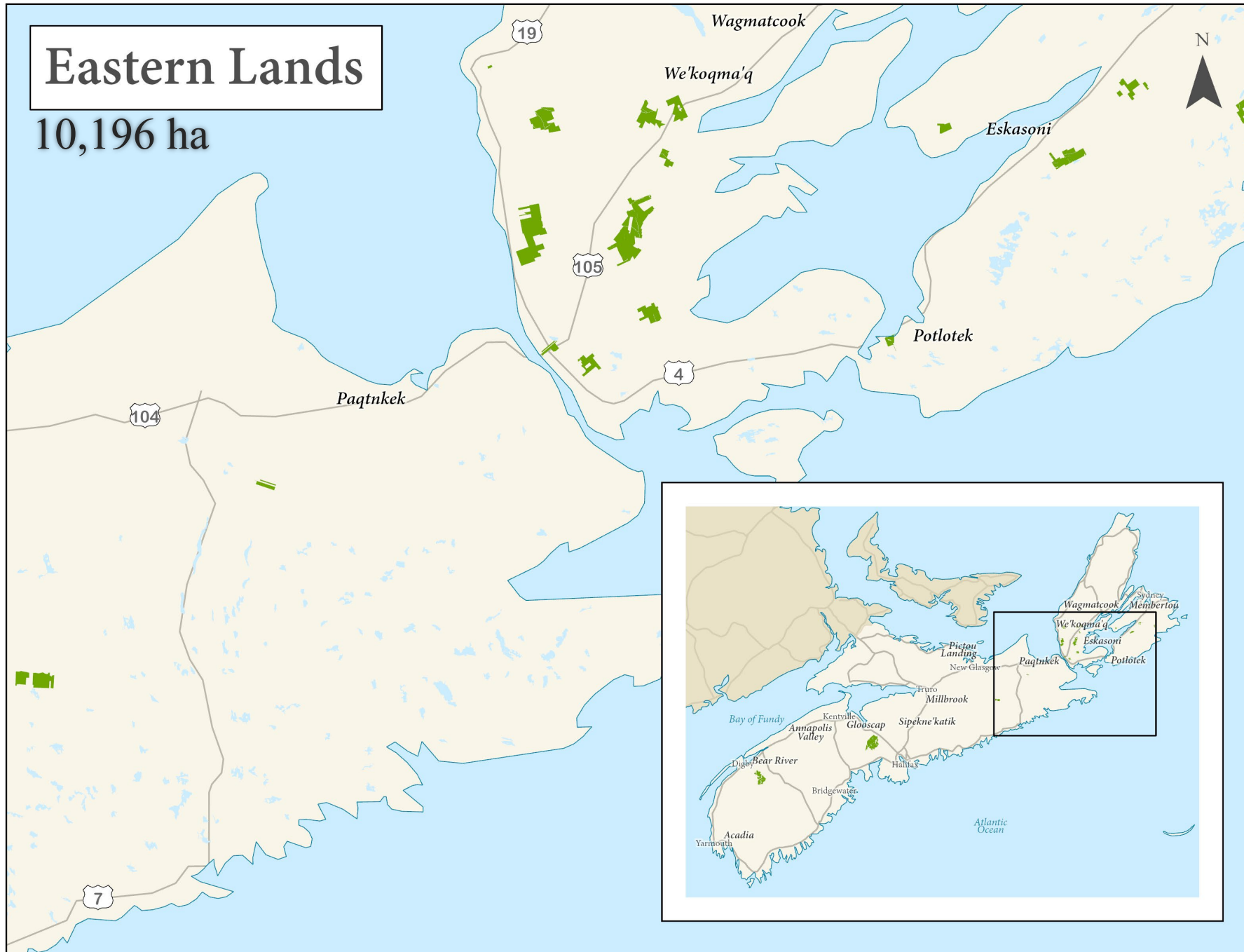
7,990 ha





# Eastern Lands

10,196 ha





# Goals & Values

## Goals:

- Restoring the Mi'kmaw forest, Mi'kmaw framework for forest ecosystem stewardship
  - Building Mi'kmaq capacities in the forestry sector, providing economic and educational opportunities, facilitating knowledge transfer between generations
  - Create spaces to rekindle a spiritual connection with forested landscape and the keeping of customary practices, ceremonies, and rituals
- 
- What are community needs?
  - What values are we managing for?







# Mi'kmaw Guiding Principles

Mimaju'nsuti, Netukulimk, Etuaptmumk, Msit No'kmaq



How we all live on this earth

How we care for this earth

How we replenish

We all (including non-Indigenous)  
have inherent responsibility to  
honour the earth

How we gather

# Mimaju'nsuti

life giver

Maintain principles of prosperity  
and sustainability for current  
and future generations

Learning how to live in  
harmony with the earth

How we live with this earth  
without causing harm



# Netukulimk

- Honouring past, current, and future generations
- Caring for the forest and using it with respect
- Thinking before you step
- Gratitude
- Only taking what you need and using it all





“learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing ... and learning to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all”  
-Elder Albert Marshall

# Etuaptmumk

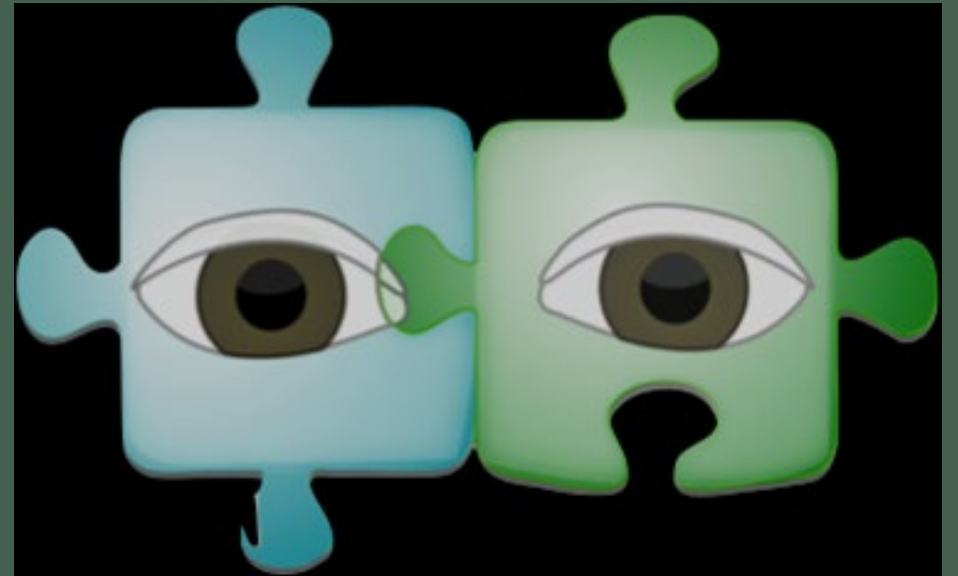


Image credit: The Institute for Integrative Science & Health, Basma Kavanagh, n.d.

# Msit No'kmaq

- All my relations... all our relations
- Plants, animals, air, water, rocks, soil, fungi, microorganisms
- Humans are part of ecosystems, we are all interconnected







# Community Engagement

What is Mi'kmaw Forestry? What we heard...



# What is Mi'kmaw Forestry?

- Traditional timber species/products, species/materials of cultural significance – paper birch, wildlife trees, teepee poles, craft wood
- NTFPs (foraged goods, crafts, medicines), cultural experience products – ecotourism
- Forest management services
- Education initiatives, land-based learning
- Carbon & climate change mitigation, adaptation





# What we heard...

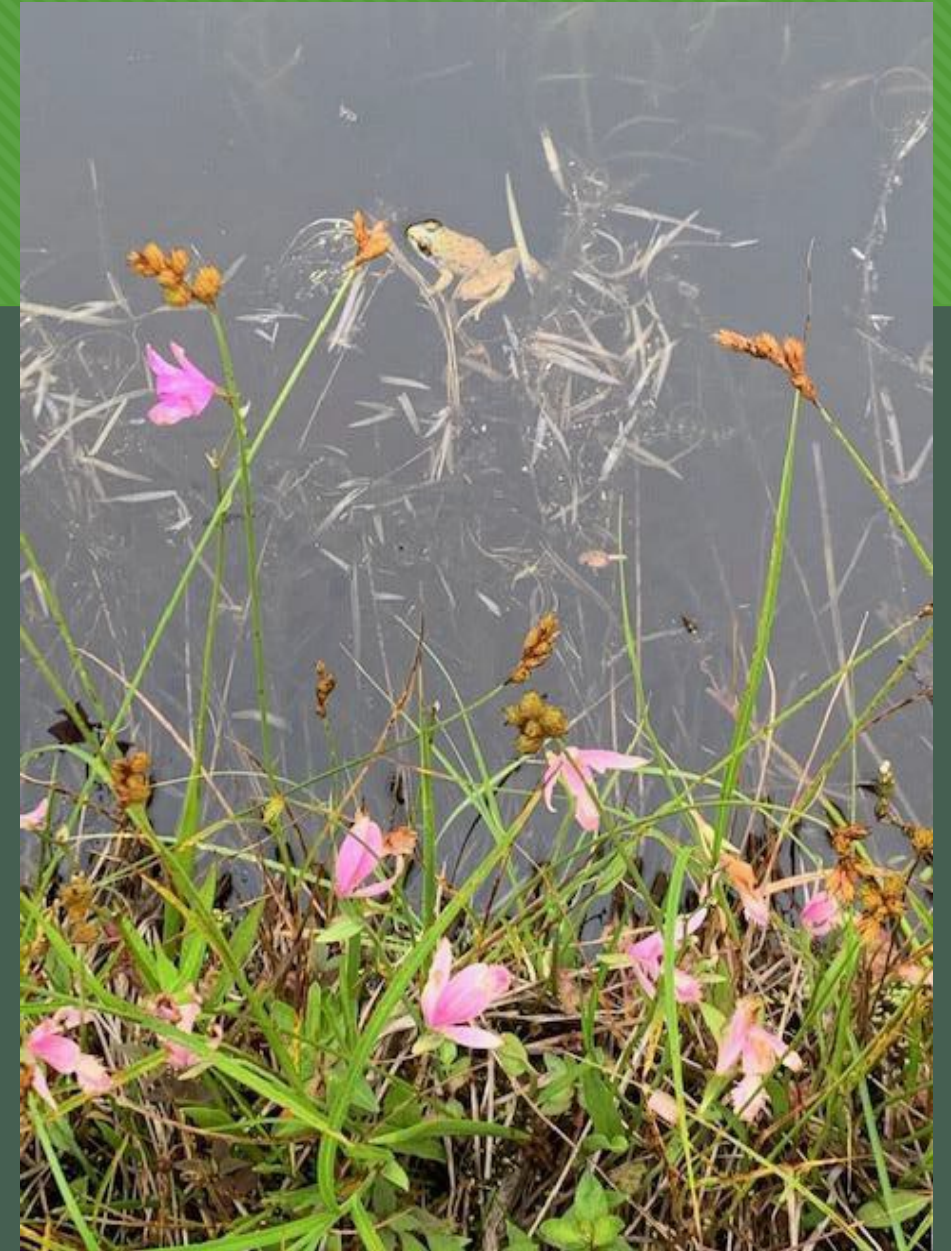
- Reconnecting with the land, cultural revitalization, keeping of traditional practices, sharing of teachings preserved through generations
- Getting to know the forested landscape  
“Be a part of the land first, then plan”
- Land-based teaching & learning





# What we heard...

- Economic opportunities pursued must uphold the principles of Netukulimk
- Maintain integrity of forest ecosystems, cycles of life and death, biodiversity
- Healing the land and healing communities





# What we heard...

- Selective management favoring high retention and restoration of diverse forests
- Producing veneer-quality logs, large diameter white birch
- Timber/ Lumber for building homes





# What we heard...

- Food security – hunting, gathering, cultivating
- Research, climate change monitoring and adaptation, SAR, bio-cultural indicators
- Minimize impacts on forest hydrology, wetlands, and soil







# MFI Operations

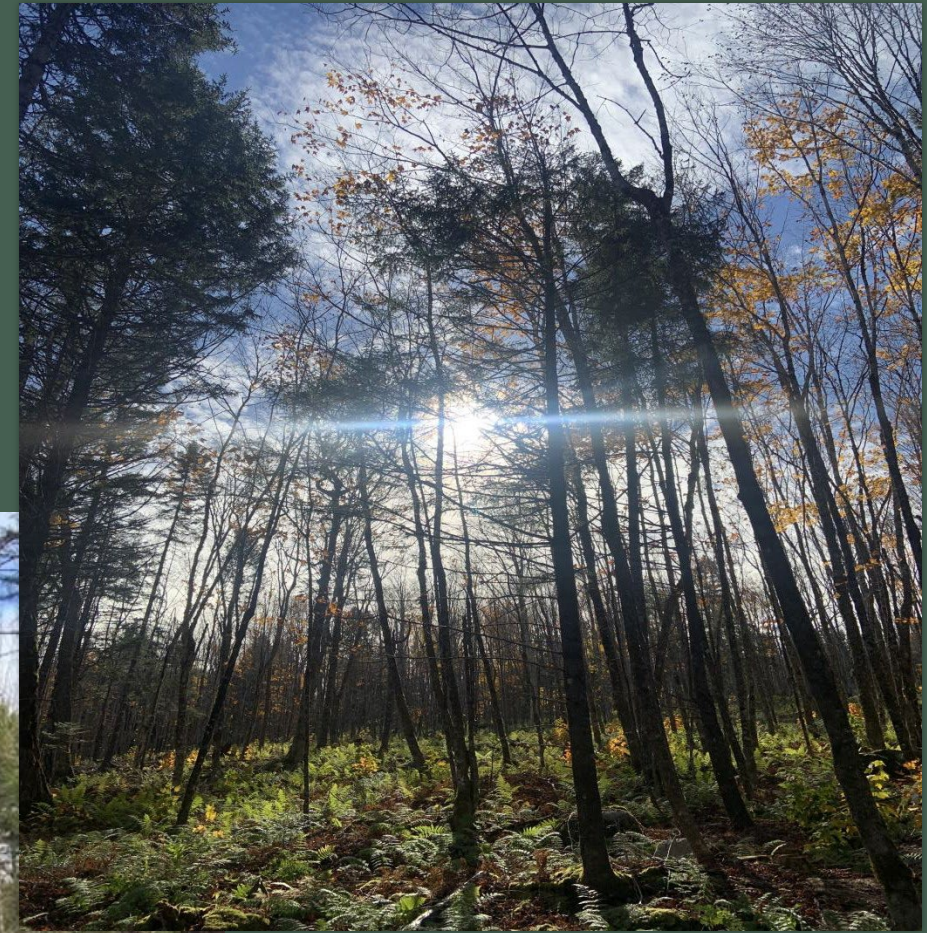
2020-2022



# St. Croix

Single tree selection

- Sugar maple dominant stand
- Red spruce stand
- ~19 ha





# St. Croix

Irregular shelterwood trial

→ 9 ha, half left as control

→ In partnership with NRR





# St. Croix

Commercial thinning

→ ~94 ha

→ Heavily impacted by  
Fiona... clean-up





# Planned Future Operations 2023-24

St. Croix – Single tree selection, high retention gap shelterwood, uniform shelterwood, clean-up

Digby – Uniform shelterwood

Eastern – Clean-up, uniform gap shelterwood w/ reserves, partial overstory removal w/ 1/3 retention  
→ modified shelterwood or commercial thinning

Continue PCT and road work



Eastern MFI – Bengal Road post Fiona





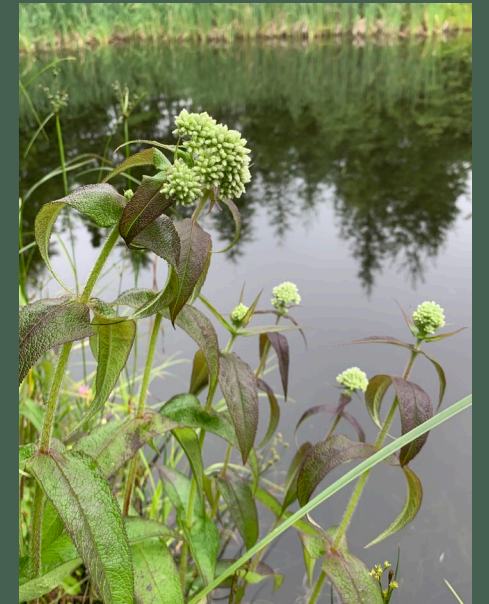
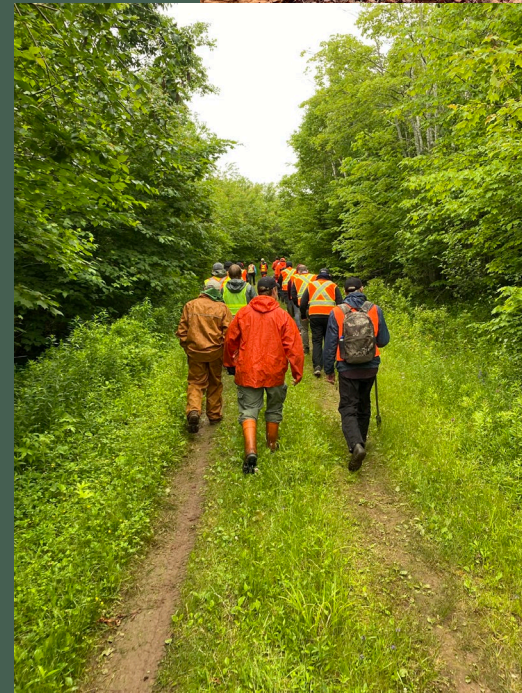
Focus on connections...





**Wela'lioq!**





Questions?