



**CANE/AIIE**  
**Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment**  
**Association d'infirmières et infirmiers pour l'environnement**

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Michael Sack  
Chief of Sipekne'katik First Nation  
[chiefsack@sipeknekatik.ca](mailto:chiefsack@sipeknekatik.ca)  
522 Church Street, Indian Brook, NS  
B0N 2H0

Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister  
[Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca)  
House of Commons, Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Jagmeet Singh  
Leader of the New Democratic Party  
[Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca)  
House of Commons, Ottawa, ON

Bernadette Jordan  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian  
Coast Guard  
[Bernadette.Jordan@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Bernadette.Jordan@parl.gc.ca)  
House of Commons, Ottawa, ON

Bill Blair  
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency  
Preparedness  
[Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca)  
House of Commons, Ottawa, ON

Marc Miller  
Minister of Indigenous Services  
[Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca)  
House of Commons, Ottawa, ON

Brenda Lucki  
Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted  
Police  
[Brenda.Lucki@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:Brenda.Lucki@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)  
73 Leikin Drive, Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0R2

Friday November 6<sup>th</sup> 2020,

To the honourable Michael Sack, Justin Trudeau, Jagmeet Singh, Bernadette Jordan, Bill Blair, Mark Miller and commissioner Brenda Lucki,

We are writing on behalf of the Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment (CANE) to express our grave concerns about the blatant racism, discrimination and harassment that Mi'kmaw fisherpeople have experienced since September 18<sup>th</sup> 2020 when Sipekne'katik First Nation announced its own self-regulated moderate livelihood fishery.

As per the 1999 Marshall Decision, the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and Section 35 of the Constitution, the Mi'kmaw have inherent rights and treaty rights to hunt, fish for a "moderate livelihood", gather and self-manage these resources on their territory. It is the duty of Canadian provincial and federal governments to uphold these rights.

We are appalled by the inaction of the RCMP in stopping these hate crimes. The threats and attacks from non-indigenous fisherpeople must stop now and be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. We are dismayed with Brenda Lucki's defense of the RCMP response and Minister Bill Blair calling these unilateral hate crimes a "dispute." As pointed out by Senator Murray Sinclair,



the situation is one of one-sided “acts of terrorism.” We also find disturbing the stark contrast between the RCMP’s heavily armed response to peaceful occupation of their territories by Wet’suwet’en in February and the RCMP’s lack of timely response to protect the Mi’kmaw.

We are also disheartened to see initial confounding arguments made for conservation concerns. The Mi’kmaw share of the lobster industry is a small fraction of overall fishing in the area, yet Clearwater corporation had been fishing illegally with DFO violations and not garnered any such public outcry. Minister Bernadette Jordan should clarify this as clearly as Honourable Jagmeet Singh has: “any suggestion that this is about conservation is wrong (and) is clearly an example of systemic racism.”

As has been asked by more than 43 000 Canadians via the *Collective Action* petition, we call on your governments to:

- (1) Uphold the rule of law and respect treaty rights.
- (2) Address the threats, attacks and discrimination against Mi’kmaq peoples, including from DFO officials.
- (3) Ensure the safety and security of Mi’kmaq people as they exercise their treaty rights.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Jessica Madrid, President  
Jacqueline Avanthay-Strus, President-Elect  
Jennifer Morin, Past-President  
June Kaminski, Treasurer, Memberships & Webmaster  
Raluca Radu, Secretary  
Sandy Alguire, Communications Officer  
Maya Reshef, Alberta Representative  
Helen Boyd, British Columbia Representative  
Hilda Swirsky, Ontario Representative  
Marilyne Tovar, Manitoba Representative  
Julia Janicki, North West Territories Representative  
Fiona Hanley, Québec Representative  
Wanda Martin, Saskatchewan Representative;  
Board of the Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment  
<https://cnhe-iise.ca>

