Sikniktuk Climate Adaptation Project Marks Major Milestone with Salt Marsh Donation to Amlamgog First Nation

Thursday, October 16th

Elsipogtog, NB: Since the inception of Sikniktuk Climate Adaptation, the Project is celebrating a significant milestone with the donation of its first acquired coastal land to the Amlamgog First Nation, marking the beginning of its long-term vision to return protected coastal lands to Mi'kmaq stewardship.

Established in response to the growing climate crisis and pressures of coastal development, the Sikniktuk Climate Adaptation project received funding from the Government of Canada to purchase and protect coastal lands across the ecologically rich regions of the Inner Bay of Fundy and the Northumberland Strait, known as Sikniktuk. The project goal is to donate all acquired land to a Mi'kmaq land trust by 2026, ensuring long-term protection and a Mi'kmaq vision for the future of the territory.

"We're proud to be donating this salt marsh to Amlamgog First Nation, a step that reflects what true stewardship looks like," said Environmental Scientist and Sikniktuk Climate Adaptation Founder Lyle Vicaire. "Land has value far beyond what can be built on it. Salt marshes provide clean air, flood protection, biodiversity, and deep cultural meaning. By returning this ecosystem to Indigenous care, we're not just protecting habitat, we're honouring relationships and ensuring this land continues to sustain both people and wildlife for generations to come."

Named for the traditional Mi'kmaq territory it encompasses, Sikniktuk is rich in diverse coastal ecosystems. From the ever-shifting mudflats and salt marshes of the Inner Bay of Fundy to the dunes and beaches that define the Northumberland Strait. These dynamic landscapes not only support vital biodiversity but also act as powerful natural buffers, protecting coastal communities from storm surges and rising sea levels.

"We are honored to accept the donation of this vital salt marsh land to the mi'gmaq of New Brunswick whose ancestral connection to this territory spans generations. This act is more than a land transfer—it is a step toward healing, reconciliation, and ecological restoration," shared Michelle Knockwood, Community Conservation Coordinator for Amlamgog Conservation. "Salt marshes are among the most productive ecosystems on Earth. They provide critical habitat, protect our coastlines, filter our waters, and help fight climate change. But many have been degraded or lost due to development, pollution, and neglect. By returning this land to Indigenous stewardship, we affirm our belief that the most effective and respectful path to restoring its health lies in traditional ecological knowledge and practices. The Indigenous community's deep understanding of the rhythms, needs, and resilience of this land will guide its healing. This is a commitment to care—for the Earth, for each other, and for future generations. Together, we are working to ensure this salt marsh not only survives, but thrives once again."

The Siknuktuk Climate Adaptation Project is a collaborative initiative between Nature Conservancy of Canada, Nature NB, CB Wetlands & Environmental Specialists, Joggins Fossil Institute, Fundy Bio-Sphere, and EOS Eco-Energy Sackville. Funded by Environment Canada & Climate Change.

To learn more, visit https://sikniktukclimate.ca/.

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