

A PRAYER FOR UNITY AND PEACE AMONG NATIONS

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From all religious groups in Atlantic Canada, we have united ourselves in prayer for peace between the aboriginal fisherman and other fishers in the Maritimes. Let us not war among ourselves, our communities, our families over the harvest of our water resources in Burnt Church and elsewhere.

Because of our struggle for equality, families on both sides have been afraid, hurt and torn apart.

Our spiritual beliefs are rooted deep within our Mother, the Earth. Every part of the Earth is Sacred to our Indian people. We say, with pride, that all creatures are our relatives because we all come from one God, the Great Spirit.

Grandfather, Grandmother God, the Great Spirit, You are the ultimate force that created this universe and all life within. We know that You have made the races of the world: the red, yellow, black, and white people, and each have given us a domain and a purpose. You have placed us on Mother Earth for which we are grateful. You have given us the natural resources so that we could sustain our lives. You have instructed us to live in peace and tranquility.

Yet we have violated Your sacred instructions because we are fighting for the natural resources You granted to all of us. Please manifest Your intelligence, knowledge, and wisdom into the minds of all people. Together, we pray that we can bring a just and peaceful resolution to the conflict that has been tearing our communities apart.

We ask the French, English, Mi'kmaq, Christian, Traditionalists, governments, and citizens to

respect the land and the water upon which we were placed. Come, pray with me and understand that all of our prayers will be heard by the same God. Without judgement or condemnation, we pray that they will set aside anger and to come together on good terms. We ask this in the name of our Father, the Spirit.

Grandfather, Grandmother, we, the Interfaith Council of Halifax and others who have joined us in prayer, we close by saying, as one body, one spirit, and one voice, we have offered our Prayers,

Noel Knockwood, Elder, Spiritual Leader and Captain of the Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Nation.