



Elsipogtog First Nation (“EFN”) is a Mi’kmaq community with approximately 3,000 members. Our traditional lands and waters are located in Mi’kma’ki, also referred to as New Brunswick, Canada. As part of the Mi’kmaq Nation, EFN holds and exercises unextinguished Aboriginal title and rights and treaty rights over the portion of Mi’kma’ki known as Siknigtuk or District 6.

EFN faces a time of unprecedented changes to our traditional lands, waters and resources. There is increased pressure from the Crown and companies to proceed with resource development activities that have the potential to affect our lands, waters and way of life for future generations.

EFN is committed to defending, protecting and advancing our title, rights and treaty rights. We are responsible pursuant to our laws for fulfilling our role as stewards of Siknigtuk and for protecting our rights, lands and waters. This includes a responsibility to past, current and future generations to ensure that any development activities in our territory are carried out in a way that is respectful of our title, rights and treaty rights and our relationship with our territory.

The navigability of waters within our territory is extremely important to EFN, as we must travel these waters to access the areas we use to practice our fishing rights. Protecting these waters and navigation within them is all the more important given the increased pressure for development within our territory. To meet our responsibilities, it is imperative that we play a central role in decisions about any proposed activities that have the potential to affect our lands, waters and resources and the exercise of our Aboriginal title and rights and treaty rights.

Protocol

1. All consultations will begin with the recognition that we operate under the mandate that you understand that *Siknigtuk* is under *Aboriginal Title*.
2. If all parties understand this, then Kopit Lodge is more than willing to start consultations.
3. Early notice on a concept (whether it is a notion, idea, design, or plan), Kopit Lodge feels it is critical that we are involved at this stage.
4. Reasonable time for preparation and engagements.
5. Adequate resources to deal with matters.
6. Engage with people who make decisions, not people who report to decision-makers. Kopit Lodge understands that empathy and paraphrasing are important tools in communication but without the people who are decision makers we feel we will not be able to reach or find resolutions.
7. **Kopit Lodge** must have access to capacity building funds to ensure we have adequate resources to engage in a meaningful and valid process.
8. All decisions should be respectfully made and that all meetings are conducted in a respectful manner.