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For Immediate Release



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Chief Darlene Bernard Presents to Standing Committee on Health and Social Development

“Over the past number of months, it appears progress has been made explaining the real challenges facing our province in its pursuit of true reconciliation,” says Chief Darlene Bernard of Lennox Island First Nation.

“The decision to mark Truth and Reconciliation Day here in Epekwitk is a tremendous step forward. And I was also very pleased with the receptiveness of Members of the Standing Committee on Health and Social Development to explore new ways of thinking relative to reconciliation,” Chief Bernard said.

At a meeting of the Committee on September 29, Chief Bernard outlined a three-point outline for reconciliation:

- 1) **Truth** – Both the Epekwitk Mi'kmaq and the settler communities need to arrive at an agreed statement of facts that will drive further discussions about reconciliation
- 2) **Repair** – Upon reaching a dialogue based on truth, the difficult work of beginning the process of repair and renewal can begin
- 3) **Reconciliation** – By combining a recognition of truth along with the difficult task of repair, our province will be much better prepared to achieve the long-desired goal of reconciliation

“I was very impressed with the discussion that took place with the Members of the Legislative Assembly. I believe Epekwitk is uniquely positioned to lead Canada on a mature and productive discussion that will take us to the goals we all share.”

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