



The following statement is distributed on behalf of L'nuey

For Immediate Release



Charlottetown, PEI – 13 December 2021

Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq Chiefs Conclude AFN Virtual Special Chiefs Assembly

First Nations leaders, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Women, Youth and Veterans from coast-to-coast-to-coast gathered virtually for the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly, hosted by the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, which took place online December 7-9.

Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq Chiefs Junior Gould and Darlene Bernard participated virtually last week in discussions and deliberations on priorities during the 2021 Assembly of First Nations Virtual Special Chiefs Assembly. The Chiefs issued the following statement today:

“We are proud to represent Epekwitk (PEI) as Acting Regional Chiefs for the Assembly of First Nations until a procedure is ratified for the selection process of the Epekwitk Regional Chief position. This is a great step forward for Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq to have our own representation at the national table, advocating on special issues and opportunities that are specific to our province. We will be able to address these issues and opportunities in a focused manner with a position that is dedicated to representing the unique interests of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq. The distinct challenges and possibilities we face here in Epekwitk will now be heard across Canada directly at the Executive Council level of the Assembly of First Nations. This is something we are very proud of, and it took many years to get here. It is something that has been needed for a long time, and it will serve all Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq well into the future.”

Wela'liq – Thank you,

Chief Darlene Bernard
Lennox Island First Nation

Chief Junior Gould
Abegweit First Nation