



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Listuguj Members Vote YES to Settlement Agreement**

**December 18, 2014 (Listuguj, Gespe'gewa'gi)** – In a historic vote on Saturday, December 13, 2014, Listuguj members voted overwhelmingly in favour (74% of the vote) of accepting the Settlement Agreement with Canada, which covers five claims that have been in the courts for almost 20 years; some have been in dispute for more than 200 years.

“This was a very important decision for our community,” said Chief Scott Martin. “Our people have spoken loud and clear that they want to settle these claims and that they support this agreement.”

A majority of community members also voted to disburse the funds to all adult members and hold money in trust for younger members until they reach the age of 18.

Listuguj now can begin a new chapter on the path to healing from past wrongs. Listuguj has shown strength and resiliency in pursuing these claims and holding its position through the negotiations. The five claims in this settlement agreement represent only a small portion of the lands Mi'gmaq of Listuguj used for its sustenance and prosperity and there is a vast opportunity to pursue its interest in those lands through claims, negotiations, or litigation. This Settlement Agreement is one of a number of steps Listuguj will take to pursue its interest in its ancestral territory in Gespe'gewa'gi.

Canada will now pay Listuguj \$64.5 million for compensation and interest regarding the breach of fiduciary duty.

“We spent many years negotiating this agreement,” said Chief Martin, “It is important to get resolution for these claims but it must be noted that the LMG continues to pursue other claims and negotiate other settlements for land and resources in our territory.”

Listuguj is a First Nation located in the southwestern part of the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec, on the border of New Brunswick. The community has a population of more than 4,000 with approximately 55% living on the reserve. The reserve land base is over 4,000 hectares and Listuguj has a young population with more than half of the members under the age of 30.

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