



LISTUGUJ TIA'M GUIDELINES FOR GUEST HARVESTERS 2024

Introduction

Mi'gmaq of Listuguj (Gespe'gewa'gi, Mi'gma'gi) honour teachings about our responsibilities, as Nnu, about harvesting for the wellbeing of our families, community, district, and Nation. The practice of *netuguling* (taking what is needed) speaks of our responsibilities to preserve and protect Tia'm. Listuguj harvesters do not harvest females, as these are the source of life. For safety reasons, harvesters only harvest Tia'm during the day. Harvesting is for food (individuals, their families, community) and is not practiced for sport or commercial reasons. These teaching are part of the school curriculum in Listuguj at Alaqsit'ew Gitpu School (AGS). When invited to other territories, Listugujuwaq are expected to follow these teachings in our intercommunity, inter-district, and nation-to-nation relations and protocols.

The Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government's priority for harvesting on Listuguj territory within Gespe'gewa'gi is Listuguj community members who depend on Tia'm to feed their immediate and extended families. An Indigenous person only benefits from Aboriginal rights within the traditional territory of their community.

Over the last seven years, Listugujuwaq harvesters and Mi'gmaq Rangers have observed a significant decrease in Tia'm's presence on Listuguj territory within Gespe'gewa'gi. The reduction of Tia'm is making it difficult for some harvesters and families to get their winter food. There are concerns that sport hunters and Indigenous people from other Indigenous nations are putting increased pressure on Tia'm on Listuguj territory within Gepe'gewa'gi.

Indigenous Guests Seeking to Harvest Tia'm on Listuguj Territory Within Gespe'gewa'gi

The LMG has developed these Guidelines for Indigenous guests seeking to harvest Tia'm on Listuguj territory within Gespe'gewa'gi. A Mi'gmaw person from a district other than Gespe'gewa'gi or an Indigenous person from another Indigenous nation who plans to harvest on Listuguj territory within Gespe'gewa'gi must obtain a Letter of Communal Authority from the LMG.

An applicant granted a Letter of Communal Authority by the LMG is allowed to harvest Tia'm on Listuguj territory within Gespe'gewa'gi as a Guest Harvester from October 1 to October 30 of the year for which the Letter of Communal Authority is issued and must respect and comply with these Guidelines.

All Guest Harvesters Must Comply With the Following Requirements:

- Carry their Letter of Communal Authority with them when harvesting on Listuguj territory within Gespe'gewa'gi to safeguard Guest Harvesters on Listuguj territory within Gespe'gewa'gi in keeping with the responsibilities imposed by our laws, customs, and practices.
- Have their own Letter of Communal Authority, regardless of the number of people in their harvesting party. The LMG needs to monitor who is harvesting on Listuguj territory within Gespe'gewa'gi, so that we may assist a harvesting party in cases of emergency.
- Be accompanied by a Listuguj community member whenever harvesting Tia'm on Listuguj territory within Gespe'gewa'gi. Taking the life of Tia'm is followed by a protocol of paying respect, and it is essential to have a Listuguj community member during the harvest.
- Not harvest female Tia'm, based on the teaching that we need to respect the source of life.
- Not harvest at night for safety reasons.
- Only harvest one Tia'm for the year, because the Tia'm presence has decreased, and our extensive community depends on Tia'm for their winter food.
- Not engage in commercial harvesting.
- Register all harvested Tia'm with the Mi'gmaq Rangers, through a Tia'm Harvest Registration Form, so that the LMG can continue to monitor Tia'm presence on Listuguj territory within Gespe'gewa'gi.
- Only harvest between Treaty Day (October 1st) and October 30th.
- Commit to responsible harvesting practices that take into consideration the teachings of *netuguling*.
- Comply with applicable provincial safety regulations.
- If using a firearm, follow applicable provincial regulations.
- Not harvest inside the boundaries of Listuguj's reserve, as community members work and families practice traditional activities in this area.

Guest Harvesters must comply with these Guidelines, the Listuguj Tia'm Harvesting Policy, and the conditions in their Letter of Communal Authority. If Guest Harvesters do not comply, they may have their Letter of Communal Authority revoked, and their harvest seized.

The application form for Letters of Communal Authority is available on the LMG website.