

## RECRUITMENT LETTER

*Implementing Mi'kmaq Inherent and Treaty Fisheries:  
An Alternative Fisheries Governance Model for Nova Scotia*

We invite you to take part in research being conducted by Shelley Denny, Interdisciplinary PhD candidate with the Marine Affairs Program (Faculty of Science) at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The purpose of my research is to reconcile current challenges surrounding the development, implementation, and governance of Mi'kmaq inherent and treaty fisheries in Canada. Current fisheries governance fails to address the need for alternative governance models that are better suited to address Indigenous knowledge, Aboriginal and Treaty rights, and ecological uncertainties. By exploring the interface between Western and Mi'kmaq knowledge systems and fisheries governance, the goal of the project is to develop an alternative governance model that facilitates the implementation of Mi'kmaq inherent and treaty fisheries in Nova Scotia.

Your participation in the study is **voluntary** and you may withdraw from the study up to 3 months following the interview.

### **Study Design**

The project design is guided by Western and Mi'kmaq Knowledge systems. The use of Two-Eyed Seeing is both a tool and interpretative framework for this project. Community consent and research protocols will be followed. Participants will be asked to take part in an individual semi-structured interview conducted in either language (English or Mi'kmaq) of your choice. Interviews will be audio and/or video recorded. Anticipated timing of the research is November 2017 to May 2018.

### **Researcher(s)**

The principle investigator is Shelley Denny, IDPhD Candidate at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia and Mi'kmaq from Unama'ki (Cape Breton, NS). However, given the possibility of interviews being conducted in Mi'kmaq, a translator (Tyson Paul and Angela Denny, both of Eskasoni, NS) may be present during the interview and transcribe audio and/or video files following the interview. My supervisor, Dr. Lucia Fanning and members of my graduate committee will have access to the transcriptions.

### **Participant Criteria**

Knowledge systems and inclusivity guides participant criteria. Participants will be recruited from the Mi'kmaq nation and the federal and provincial fisheries governance organizations. If time permits, non-indigenous representatives of fisheries organizations whose members are involved in harvesting similar species to those being examined in my research may also be contacted for interviews.

From the Mi'kmaq nation, participants from the seven Mi'kmaq districts located in Maine, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland may include:

- Fish harvesters (male and female)
- Beneficiaries of fishing (youth, elders; community leadership; male and female)

- Mi'kmaq Grand Council
- Managers of communal commercial and food fisheries
- Indigenous and Mi'kmaq fisheries and aquatic resource governance organizations (national, regional, provincial, local)
- Mi'kmaq historians, legal advisors, and scholars

From the federal (Maritimes, Gulf regions and Headquarters) and provincial governments, participants may include:

- Resource managers
- Regional director general(s)
- Federal ministers
- Fisheries assessment scientists
- Licensing and permitting departments
- Conservation and protection/natural resource officers
- Policy development
- Representatives from fisheries organizations harvesting species of interest to the Mi'kmaq

### **Compensation**

As an academic study, you will not be compensated for your participation. As per Mi'kmaq cultural protocols of reciprocity, small gifts of appreciation will be offered for Mi'kmaq participation in the study.

### **The Role of the Participant**

You will be asked to complete an interview in person, telephone or through video conferencing. Prior to the interview, the researcher will review the consent form and request your signature. For telephone or video conferencing interviews, an email acknowledging your consent is required.

The interview will consist of a series of open-ended questions and is expected to take approximately one to two hours to complete. You will have the opportunity to provide clarification of your responses for use in the study following the interview. The interview will be conducted in one visit, however, as the project develops there may be another interview requested. Phone calls and emails will be used to clarify responses if needed.

### **Possible Risks and Discomfort**

Every effort was made to reduce the risk of your participation in the study. Risks to non-Mi'kmaq participants include discomfort in answering a question, should the participant chose to answer. This risk is minimal due to the nature of the questions, which could occur in everyday conversations. There is a risk of participants feeling uncomfortable with the meeting locations. To mitigate this risk, participants will be informed before the interview that they can choose to not answer the questions. When arranging interview locations, participants will be given option to choose the location or have the interview conducted over the phone. The responses you provide should be based on your professional expertise. For Mi'kmaq participants, approval to conduct research with Mi'kmaw participants will be obtained prior to Mi'kmaq participation.

If you feel uncomfortable at any point during the interview, you may skip the question or stop the interview at any time. Any quotation you provide will require your permission for use in the final manuscript.

**Confidentiality**

The knowledge and information that you share will remain confidential. Participants will be assigned a randomly generated alpha-numeric identifier or pseudonym. Digital copies (files) of the interview notes and transcripts will be password protected and stored on my password protected computer. Paper versions will also have the same coding and will be stored in a locked filing cabinet. The data will be securely saved for five years after publication date and then destroyed. Should you wish to have your responses removed from the analysis, the researcher must be contacted and it will be removed prior to submission or wider research dissemination.

**Anonymity**

Anonymity cannot be guaranteed, but your name will not be identified in the research unless you provide your consent. Option for disclosure of quotes is at the discretion of the participant.

Interested participants must contact the researcher to indicate interest, whether the criteria for inclusion is met, and arrange for an interview.

Thank you for your time and consideration in participating in this study. Please do not hesitate to address any questions you might have about this study to Shelley Denny (Mobile: 902-5784340 or [sdenny@dal.ca](mailto:sdenny@dal.ca)) or Dr. Lucia Fanning ([Lucia.Fanning@dal.ca](mailto:Lucia.Fanning@dal.ca)).

Wela'lin,



Shelley Denny  
IDPhD Candidate  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia