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For Immediate Release

Nunatsiavut Government stands with Sipekne'katik First Nation over fishing rights

The Nunatsiavut Government is calling on the Government of Canada to immediately recognize the inherent fishing rights of Nova Scotia's Sipekne'katik First Nation.

"We stand with the Sipekne'katik First Nation in their fight to protect their rights to hunt, fish and gather in pursuit of a moderate livelihood," says Nunatsiavut's Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Greg Flowers.

The Sipekne'katik First Nation launched its own independent lobster fishery in early September, prompting a dispute with commercial fishermen.

"We find it appalling that Indigenous fishermen would be hampered from checking their traps. In some cases, traps have been illegally removed from the water," notes Minister Flowers. "Federal Fisheries Minister Bernadette Jordan has an obligation to uphold the rule of law, and action should be taken immediately to protect the Sipekne'katik First Nation from these acts of hostility and violence."

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