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199 Grafton Street,
Suite 501

Charlottetown, PE

1-902-626-2882

1-902-367-3779 Fax

www.mcpei.ca

**For more
information, contact:**

Don MacKenzie

Director,
Intergovernmental
Affairs

dmackenzie@mcpei.ca

1-(902) 626-2882

Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI shares serious concerns over the omnibus Bill C-45

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (December 13, 2012) –The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI shares serious concerns being raised by Aboriginal community members over the omnibus Bill C-45.

Individual members are organizing a rally on Friday on Grafton Street in front of Province House at 1pm. While the Confederacy is not organizing the event, the board of directors, comprised of the Chiefs and Councillors of the Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations, is very supportive of Aboriginal community members expressing their concern and raising awareness of government actions that will impact on Mi'kmaq rights.

The Federal government's inclusion of amendments to numerous pieces of legislation, including the Indian Act, in omnibus legislation limits the opportunity for engagement and disregards the Crown obligations for consulting with the First Nations. The omnibus legislation contains amendments to legislation relating to the environment, Reserve lands, waterways and the fishery – these are core matters that go to the heart of Aboriginal and treaty rights. Yet despite the fact that the legislation will have impacts on constitutionally entrenched rights, the government has refused to listen to the First Nations' position and has demonstrated a lack of respect for the First Nations and their communities. The Federal government is rushing this legislation through Parliament without hearing the voice of the First Nations on matters that are fundamental to their established rights as Aboriginal people, and this is unacceptable.