

The following is distributed by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI

Statement by MCPEI regarding Hon. Robert Ghiz; *Premier responsible for significant advancements in PEI-First Nation relations*

Summerside, PEI, November 13, 2014 --

The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI is recognizing the significant advancements in PEI-First Nations relations made under the leadership of Premier Robert Ghiz. Premier Ghiz has served as Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs.

"Never before have there been such true Government-to-Government relations between the Government of PEI and those of the Island's Mi'kmaq people," said Chief Matilda Ramjattan of Lennox Island First Nation. "What we have seen in the past seven years is a monumental step forward in the development of a true partnership."

Under the leadership of Premier Robert Ghiz, the Province established an Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat, created a progressive policy on the Duty to Consult and Accommodate that respects the interests of right-holders, signed a Partnership Agreement with PEI Mi'kmaq and, most recently, signed an ambitious Economic Development Agreement with the Island's Mi'kmaq governments.

"While relationships have been evolving steadily over the past fifteen years, the Ghiz government represented a true breakthrough in the recognition of the PEI Mi'kmaq Governments," said Chief Brian Francis of Abegweit First Nation. "I would like to recognize Premier Ghiz for what he has accomplished with Mi'kmaq First Nations. While we have much more to achieve, we recognize that the progress that has been made could not have been achieved without his leadership."

- 30 -

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