



## Overview

In this LE, learners will brainstorm and then create a portrait of an ideal Mi'kmaw leader. Leadership portraits incorporate 3 elements: historical context, Mi'kmaw values, and Mi'kmaw governance practices. Learners trace the similarities and differences in Mi'kmaw leadership over time, which will help them understand that different times demand different kinds of leaders. Despite historical change, the protection of people, culture, and netukulimk remain priorities.

## Learners will...

- Incorporate Mi'kmaw governance practices with cultural values to determine leadership needs at different times.
- See that different historical situations require different leadership skills.
- Consider what the goals of Mi'kmaw leaders would be given a particular situation.
- Understand that even when times change, some goals stay the same.
- Figure out that the goals of Mi'kmaw leadership and the goals of other leaders might not be the same.

## Focus

Working in groups, or as a class sequentially, learners use provided historical descriptions to create a portrait of an ideal Mi'kmaw leader.

Portraits are completed using a worksheet that asks learners to describe their leaders in 3 areas: 1) the qualities they need to guide Mi'kmaw communities well; 2) the skills they need to guide a community through their specific historical context; and 3) the goals a leader might have during their specific time period.

A follow-up class discussion will allow groups to share their portraits with each other, comparing their ideas.

**PE!**

*It is important that learners have a clear understanding of the following content:*

- *The Mi'kmaq as the indigenous people of Nova Scotia and the Atlantic region.*
- *Mi'kma'kik as the ancestral homeland of the Mi'kmaq.*
- *Mi'kmaw governance practices. (See Leadership introduction)*
- *The concepts of netukulimk and msit no'kmaq, and weji-sqalia'tiek. (See LE F4, Family, Culture, Community introduction)*
- *Primary Mi'kmaw values such as tpi'tnewey, consensus, asa ki'l, humour, etc. (See LE F8, Family, Culture, Community introduction)*

## Additional Resources

- See the introduction to the **Leadership** section.
- For additional resources, see the digital version of this LE at **Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre website:**  
<http://mikmaweydebert.ca/f13>

Saqmaq,

*This place where you are, this place where you build your house, here where you build your fortress, this place where you want to own all the land, there is exactly where I sprouted from, I, the native is where I'm from, that is my land; it is a fact that the Creator gives me my territory forever.*

*It is natural then for me to tell you what is in my heart-mind for your reflection. Far be it for the lieutenant to feel any guilt with all his construction in Halifax.*

*My king and your king both have distributed land for themselves; that is why today they have good relations. However, it is strange for me that I do not have the same relationship or have trade with your people. Where then I, a native can I live? You order me out. Where will you have me hide? You have nearly already taken all the land, the entire huge area. All I had left was Halifax. Even that you wish to withhold from me, you even wish for me to leave, which is how we know we will never cease to bicker, nor even be blood related. Your strength originates from your numbers, whereas I am few and nowhere do I acquire my courage but from the Creator. The lieutenant knows to be true that even a small insect knows his worthiness. I a native find it curious as to why I should not be thought of at least a little more highly.*

*I do not believe you will stay in Port Royal forever, because indeed it has been a long time since I had the highest respect for you. However it would now be odd of me not to speak after all you have stolen from me. Soon now I will go to see you. Perhaps truly you will appreciate all that I wish to tell you. If you like my words and I like your words, and if also you carefully consider how favorably you will speak, that is how I will know you want only harmony. So that surely our affairs will right themselves, this is all I say to you. I do not wish to badger you any further.*

*I kiss (embrace) you Chief.*

*This is written in Potlotek on the 5th day before the feast of St. Michael*

Mi'kmaw Saqmaq wrote this letter to the British Governor Edward Cornwallis in the fall of 1749. It was delivered in January of 1750.

The letter conveys Mi'kmaw perspectives of land, leadership, and British presence in Mi'kma'kik. Can you spot the English phrase that describes weji-sqalia'tiek? A version of this letter for classroom use can be found in the supplementary materials.

*Deciphered, translated and transliterated by Dr. Bernard Francis,  
22 November 2016*