

# The Ratification: A Readers' Theatre



T4

## Overview

This essential Learning Experience is a reader's theatre of the 1726 ratification of the 1725–28 Treaty. The hilarious, detailed, and illuminating script authored by Melody Martin-Googoo, highlights the key moments of the ratification and conveys a wealth of information on the context, decision-making, and events of 18th century Mi'kma'kik. The text is based on historical fact and includes notes and comments on the actual ratification.

## Learners will...

- Understand the primary events of the 1726 ratification of the 1725–28 Treaty, the first in the Covenant Chain.
- Understand that protecting netukulimk was the priority for Mi'kmaw leadership in the 18th century.
- See Mi'kmaw cultural values and decision-making reflected in the character roles.
- Understand that the British and the Mi'kmaq wanted the treaty to create peace and stability across Mi'kma'kik.
- Understand that the ratification took several years, one saqmaq at a time. No one Saqmaq or other leader spoke for the Nation as a whole, which is still true today.

## Focus

The script contains further notes about delivery of this LE. Roles are assigned to individual learners, with some roles requiring more or less content, as noted in the text, to accommodate various reading levels. Educators can choose to include props or to simply read from the text. As noted in the script, if educators want to involve more learners in the activity, they can consider the following:

- Add learner-written commercials influenced by the theme of Mi'kma'kik in 1726. For example, homemade mosquito repellent, finely made parchment paper, authentic feather quill pen, etc.
- Have more than one cast and have casts take turns presenting their versions.
- Read several scripts in small groups then choose one to perform for the class.
- Split the narrator roles into more than one person (e.g., first half and second half).

**PE!**

*It is important that learners engaging in this Learning Experience 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.*
- *Understand the concepts of netukulimk and msit no'kmaq. (See LE F4)*
- *What a treaty is. (See LE T1)*
- *Key pillars of Mi'kmaw governance. (See Leadership introduction, LE F12, F13)*

## Additional Resources

- See the introductions to the **What is a Treaty?** and **Treaty-Making** sections, as well as the **general introduction** to the resource.
- For additional resources, see the digital version of this LE at **Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre website:**  
<http://mikmaweydebert.ca/t4>

## “The Ratification”

### —SCENE 1—

- Narrator 1: (proud and very serious) Many years ago, in the land of Mi'kma'ki... (me-gumah-ghee)
- Narrator 2: (interrupts with excitement) today we call this place Nova Scotia!
- Narrator 1: Ahem, (clears throat) Many years ago, in the traditional land of the Mi'kmaq, a group of British soldiers, Acadian men, Mi'kmaw chiefs, warriors and community members gathered at Annapolis Royal.
- Narrator 3: (bright and cheerful) Annapolis Royal is the site of..
- Narrator 2: (interrupts) Oh my gosh! The date! We need to mention the date. We forgot the date!
- Narrator 1: (quietly mutters to Narrator 2) We will get to the date, could you please let Narrator 3 finish?
- Narrator 2: Meskay! (mess-gay)
- Narrator 3: Annapolis Royal is the site of a British Military fort named “Fort Anne.” British officers lived here and there were...
- Narrator 2: (interrupts again) Are we going to mention the date? Um, also, just to let you know that Meskay (mess-gay) translates to “I’m sorry” in the Mi'kmaw language. O gosh, meskay...again. I can't help myself. I am just sooo excited to narrate the story of the Mi'kmaq and the British ratifying the Treaty of 1725!
- Narrator 1 & 3: Narrator 2! Stop Interrupting!
- Narrator 1: Narrator 2, there are a lot of people waiting for us to begin this story. And look at all our classmates ready to read their parts.
- Narrator 2: Yikes! Okay, my bad. Narrator 3, you can continue...and, um, don't forget the date!

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