

Mi'kmaw Decision-Making

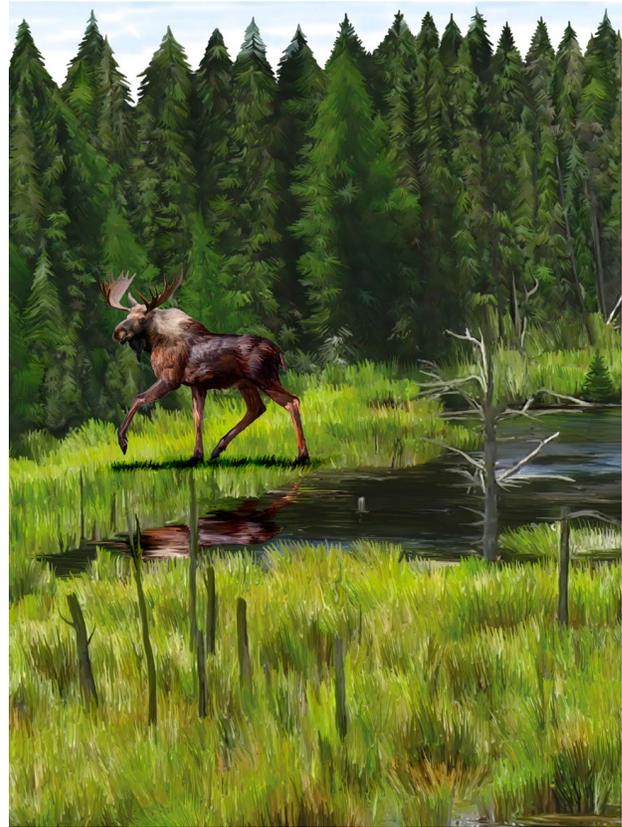
Overharvesting

Scenario

It is the early 1840s, and you are living along the mighty Mersey River called Oqomkikiaq in Mi'kmaw with your sukwiskw (aunties) and klamuksiskw (uncles) and many nikma'j (cousins).

For several decades, people have been overharvesting tia'muk (moose), and your family is concerned that this harvesting is not in keeping with netukulimk.

Every part of the tia'muk (moose) is valued and utilized. You know tia'muk are part of the original treaties and an honoured life within msit no'kmaq. The great worry is that the moose will disappear altogether.



Artwork: G. Gloade

Group Resolution

Within your groups, you must decide what steps you can take to protect the moose. You might consider what might reduce the harvesting, or alternately, what might strengthen them.

Use Mi'kmaw values as you make decisions: work together to reach a decision, honour humility, respect each other and include everyone. Remember that in Mi'kmaw worldview, decisions consider all living beings and the land, not just people.



Overharvesting

Historical Notes

This scenario is built on a real historical record: a successful petition that created a closed moose hunting season.

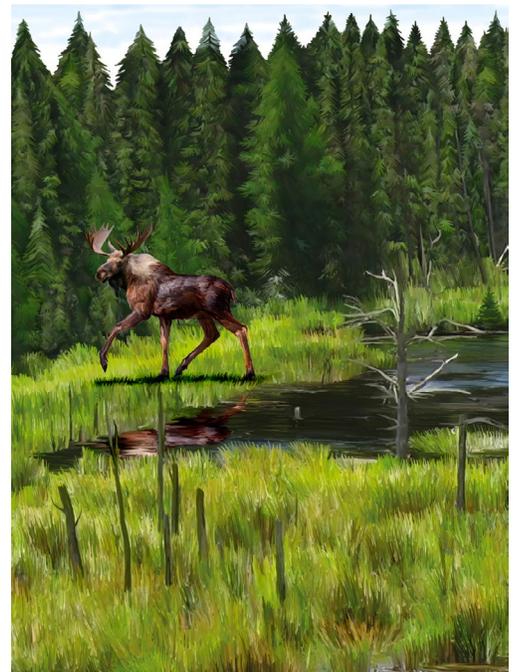
What did the Mi'kmaq decide?

In this instance, Mi'kmaw leadership were able to successfully engage the colonial government to create new regulations to protect the moose population with a closed hunting season.

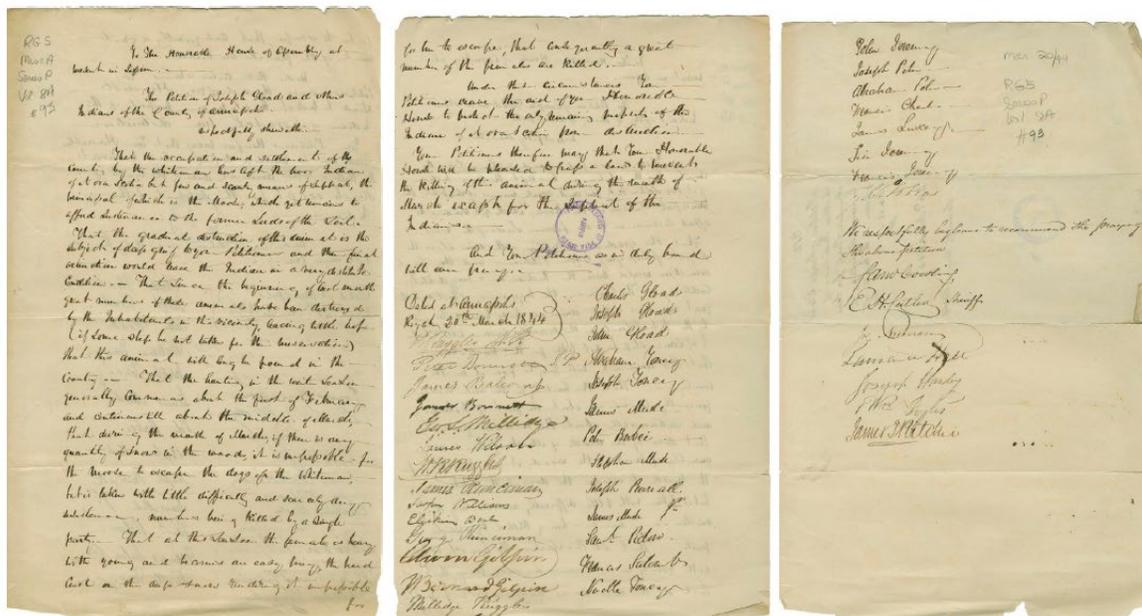
In 1843-44, Joseph Glode, Jr. (c.1780-c.1860) and a large group of Mi'kmaw leaders successfully petitioned the Nova Scotia legislature to create a closed moose hunting season for settlers, along with regulations for selling the meat.

These regulations helped for decades. By the mid-20th century, however, moose across Nova Scotia had been decimated due to habitat loss and over harvesting.

Today, the Mi'kmaw Nation works to restore moose habitat and grow the population.



Artwork: G Gloade



Petition to create regulations for moose harvesting, signed at Annapolis Royal in 1844
Nova Scotia Archives, <https://archives.novascotia.ca/mikmaq/archives/?ID=525>

