



**Membertou**  
WELCOMING THE WORLD!

**September 18, 2020**

**Dear Membertou Community,**

**I want to acknowledge our Mi'kmaq fishers and especially our Membertou fishers and community members who attended the demonstrations in St. Mary's Bay yesterday. Thank you for representing our community and for using your voice to protect our rights on the anniversary of an incredibly meaningful day for all of us in Membertou; twenty-one years since the Marshall Decision.**

**I was not able to attend the demonstrations in person, but spent the week working with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Chiefs, addressing media to help educate people across the province on our rights, and speaking with Minister Jordan of Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) and Minister Bennett of Crown-Indigenous Relations. After speaking with the ministers, they understand that this is not a negotiation process, but rather their role is to assist us in the implementation of the moderate livelihood fishery.**

**The safety of our fishers is top priority right now. In the past, our fishers have been harassed, and we've had our Membertou boat burned. We must define for ourselves, on our own terms, what a moderate livelihood looks like for our own community. We have ONE chance to define this process and we do NOT want to settle for less than we deserve.**

**Membertou will soon be undertaking a community survey process to get community and fisher's input to develop a plan for Membertou. Our process has been delayed due to the pandemic, but is going to be taking place in the coming weeks. In determining what our community's needs are, we can eliminate the needless harassment and charges being taken against our people.**

**I refuse to settle for less than we deserve, and in honouring our hero, Donald Marshall Jr., we must stay the course so we can 'keep fishing' until the end of time – on our terms.**

**Thank you for your cooperation on this matter and please stay tuned for our community engagement process that will be taking place soon. Be safe, Membertou.**

**Wela'lioq,**

**Chief Terry**