

BEAR RIVER (L'SITKUK) FIRST NATION

PO Box 210, Bear River

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902-467-3802

Notice to Community

Right Conduct Law

February 19, 2026

To Bear River (L'sitkuk) Community Members:

One of the roles of your Chief and Council is to promote safety, security and well-being for our members and on our reserve. We are a Mi'kmaq community, and our worldviews are based on principles of respect, candor and honesty. L'nu have a duty to care for one another.

To encourage that goal, on January 20, 2026, your Chief and Council passed a "Right Conduct Law", based on these core Mi'kmaq values. This law can now be found on our website at:

Bear River First Nation.

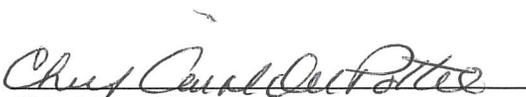
That new Law promotes "Right Conduct" in our dealings with each other. It discourages Bullying and Cyber-Bullying. It makes it wrongful to engage in Disorderly Conduct on our lands. Further protections are provided to Band employees and other Band Representatives. These concepts are defined in the Right Conduct Law.

A person who breaches the Right Conduct Law can be called to a Review Hearing before Chief and Council, which can result in sanctions that range from counselling to full or partial bans from the reserve or defined areas on our reserve. Review Hearings are not required in instances of urgency. People who are on our reserve but are not Band members can be sanctioned without a hearing.

Please take the time to read this new Right Conduct Law, which can be found on our website.

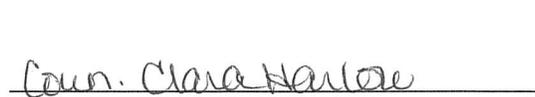
If you have questions or comments, they can be sent by email to admin@bearriverfirstnation.ca.

Respectfully,


Chief Carol Dee Potter


Councillor Fred Robar-Harlow


Councillor Carol Ann Potter


Councillor Clara Harlow

BEAR RIVER (L'SITKUK) FIRST NATION RIGHT CONDUCT LAW

Approved by Band Council Resolution: January 20, 2026

WHEREAS the Chief and Council of Bear River (L'sitkuk) First Nation desire to make a law governing the conduct of its members and other persons on BRFN Lands, including its fee simple lands and reserves (the "**BRFN Lands**");

AND WHEREAS the Bear River (L'sitkuk) First Nation is empowered by its inherent right to govern, including jurisdiction over its reserve lands and community membership, as recognized and affirmed by section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867, and section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, to enact this law;

AND WHEREAS Bear River (L'sitkuk) First Nation is further empowered to make this law pursuant to sections 81(1)(p.1), (q), and (r) of the *Indian Act*.

AND WHEREAS Chief and Council has the right to govern to foster safe, healthy, peaceful and respectful communities, gatherings, offices and businesses on BRFN Lands;

AND WHEREAS the Chief and Council of Bear River (L'sitkuk) First Nation deems it advisable and in the best interests of the First Nation to enact a law for the encouragement of right conduct and the prevention of Disorderly Conduct on BRFN Lands;

NOW THEREFORE the Chief and Council of Bear River (L'sitkuk) First Nation hereby make the following law:

1. TITLE

1.1 This Law may be cited as the "**Bear River (L'sitkuk) First Nation Right Conduct Law**".

2. BACKGROUND

The Bear River (L'sitkuk) First Nation is a Mi'kmaq community, part of the Mi'kmaq Nation in that portion of Mi'kma'ki that is now called Nova Scotia. We have lived on our

lands and waters since time immemorial. We continue to live today proudly, as our ancestors always have, in accordance with Mi'kmaq principles, values and beliefs.

Our Nation has been subject to decades of attempts by settler society to extinguish our culture and assimilate our people. Those attempts include forced centralization, residential schools, child apprehensions and cultural oppression.

Our community is resilient and determined to decolonize our lives and regain our proper role as protectors with jurisdiction over our territory of Mi'kma'ki. Settler attempts to colonize us have failed but have left our community with lasting legacies of generational trauma.

This kind of trauma can affect entire families or groups, leading to emotional, mental, and even physical issues that persist across generations. These effects can also arise from family-level trauma, including abuse, neglect or chronic stress. Generational trauma can impact individuals even if they have not personally experienced the traumatic event.

The Bear River (L'sitkuk) First Nation lives in accordance with Mi'kmaq laws and principles, including (1) honesty, (2) respect, (3) that we are all connected, and (4) that we must make decisions mindful of the impact on others in our Nation, out to the seventh generation. We will demonstrate wisdom and courage to build to our future by abiding with these ancient teachings and applying them in our community.

These principles require us to demonstrate "**Right Conduct**" by each being respectful to and caring for others in our community, providing for them a supportive, non-threatening environment. Each member deserves a space within which he or she can feel safe and can thrive to fulfill their potential.

The way in which inter-generational trauma effects each person can be different and may not be obvious. Your conduct can make that person feel safe, helping them to heal. Or your actions can make that person feel at risk, lesser or disrespected, making that person feel re-traumatized.

We know that healing each of us from generational trauma can transform the well-being of future generations. This expectation of Right Conduct applies to everyone in our community, and is to benefit everyone in our community. Special care must be given to

those who, like our employees, are obliged to care for us; We are obliged to show caring and respect for them.

“Right Conduct” includes respecting others’ physical and emotional boundaries, and their role in our community. Be aware that your actions and words may have unintended harmful effects on other people and that their feelings are valid, regardless of your intentions. Avoid being intimidating or aggressive, do not raise your voice, interrupt or talk over anyone else, or make threatening gestures. Be appreciative of others and show humility and respect. These principles apply when interacting in person, on the telephone, or through social media or other computer applications. These are the Mi’kmaq cultural values that will allow our community to best emerge into a decolonized and healthy future.

3. PURPOSE

3.1 The purpose of this Law is to:

- (a) encourage Right Conduct between all of our relations;
- (b) foster safe, healthy and respectful interactions, gatherings and workplaces on BRFN Lands;
- (c) provide for the safety of individuals on the BRFN Lands;
- (d) Promote safe spaces for community members and Band Representatives;
- (e) observe law and order;
- (f) prevent Disorderly Conduct and Cyber-bullying;
- (g) remove and punish persons trespassing on the Reserve Lands or who are otherwise in breach of this Conduct Law;
- (h) prevent threats being made to the safety and well-being of members, residents and Band representatives; and
- (i) Establish a fair decision-making process for enforcing this Law.

4. DEFINITIONS

4.1 In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires:

“Band Representative” includes the elected officials, employees, volunteers, contractors and other agents of the First Nation.

"BRFN Official" means any of (a) the Chief of the First Nation, (b) a member of Council, (c) the Band Manager, (d) the Housing Manager, or (e) a person acting in the capacity of Band Manager or Housing Manager on an acting or interim basis on the direction of Chief and Council;

"Causing a Disturbance" means making, causing, or permitting to be made or caused, any noise in or on the BRFN Lands that disturbs the peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of the community, or persons in the vicinity;

"Council" means the Chief and Council of Bear River (L'sitkuk) First Nation, the elected governing body of the First Nation;

"Cyber-bullying" is conduct which takes place over digital devices, such as telephones, cell phones, computers and tablets, through SMS, texts, applications or on-line in social media, forums or gaming platforms, which involves the sharing, posting, re-posting, or publication of private, hurtful, harmful, humiliating, or false information about a person or persons.

"Discretionary Payment" means any payment made by the First Nation to a Band member from the First Nation's own funds and business or other activities and does not include external government program funding.

"Disorderly Conduct" means any act or behavior on BRFN Lands of:

- a) aggression, including fighting;
- b) Causing a Disturbance;
- c) using abusive language;
- d) using offensive or indecent gestures or displays;
- e) being drunk or otherwise intoxicated in public;
- f) loitering, blocking traffic or otherwise interfering with safe and orderly pedestrian or vehicular traffic;

- g) exposing, firing or discharging any gun, pistol or other firearm, or using or threatening to use any other article as a weapon, except in defence of life or property;
- h) interfering in any manner with the orderly conduct of commercial, administrative, educational, recreational, health care, religious or ceremonial activities on BRFN Lands;
- i) taking or using assets or resources of the First Nation without authorization;
- j) having open liquor in a public area;
- k) possession of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia in a public area;
- l) trespass, including unlawful occupation of a home allocated to another person or unauthorized occupation of an unallocated home under the administration of the BRFN Housing Department;
- m) refusing to leave a public area when directed to do so by a BRFN official or a peace officer for a lawful reason, including but not limited to non-compliance with this Law;
- n) urinating or defecating in a public area;
- o) committing mischief on the property of or allocated to another person; or
- p) any other disorderly behavior that disrupts public order on BRFN Lands, scandalizes the community, or causes public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm;

“**peace officer**” includes a member of a police force of an external government with jurisdiction on BRFN Lands;

5. BAND REPRESENTATIVES

- 5.1 Band Representatives are entitled to Right Conduct from Band members and other people with whom they interact, both while they are at work or outside their place and hours of work, and including on electronic devices or social media platforms. Right Conduct includes treating others with fairness, honesty, courtesy and respect.

5.2 Bullying of Band Representatives will not be tolerated. Bullying behaviors include:

- Abusive, insulting or offensive language or comments;
- Sexual advances and other unwanted physical contacts;
- Violent, aggressive or intimidating conduct;
- Cyber-bullying
- Preventing a person from expressing themselves or constantly interrupting them;
- Degrading, belittling or humiliating comments;
- The spreading of false information, unsupported allegations, gossip or unfounded rumors;
- Intruding uninvited into someone else's personal or work space;
- Interfering with the ability of a Band Representative to perform their work or function; and
- Creating a hostile environment.

5.3 Where such conduct occurs towards a person due to a particular characteristic of that person (such as when based on sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, ethnicity or race), this may be also be unlawful discrimination.

6. BREACH OF LAW

6.1 Everyone who breaches this Law, including by committing an act of Disorderly Conduct, is subject to enforcement under this Law.

6.2 A BRFN Official may direct any person who is breaching this Law, including by engaging in Disorderly Conduct, to stop such conduct immediately.

6.3 The failure to comply with a direction issued under section 6.2 allows Council to make an enforcement order described in section 7 or 8 herein, including banning

the person from BRFN Lands, and to seek assistance from a peace officer or the Courts to prevent continuation of the conduct.

7. ENFORCEMENT

- 7.1 Where a person who has been directed by a BRFN Official to stop a breach of this Law fails or refuses to comply with the direction, First Nation staff may take such reasonable measures as are necessary to stop the conduct, including requesting the assistance of a peace officer.
- 7.2 A Band member or other reserve resident who invites non-Band members onto the BRFN Lands, through an express invitation or from offering services or products to the public, can be held responsible for the Disorderly Conduct of his or her guests, customers or invitees.
- 7.3 Nothing in this Law precludes the First Nation from pursuing any other enforcement action or remedy provided for in law.
- 7.4 If the First Nation incurs expense or loss due to a breach of, or arising from the enforcement of, this Law, those expenses or that loss can be deducted from future Discretionary Payments to be made to the person or persons who caused the expense or loss. If two or more Band members are involved, Discretionary Payments made be withheld from either one or jointly from multiple members.
- 7.5 No person shall obstruct, interfere with or hinder Council or any BRFN Representative in the carrying out of their duties and responsibilities under this Law.

8. REVIEW HEARINGS

- 8.1 Council may consider a complaint that a person is or has been in breach of this Law, including the commission of Disorderly Conduct on BRFN Lands.
- 8.2 In addition to any amounts withheld from Discretionary Payments, Council can impose restrictions on any person who has or is in breach of this Law, which can include:
- a) a full or partial ban of that person from BRFN Lands, or from a specified portion of BRFN Lands
 - b) a full or partial ban may be for:
 - A defined period of time; or
 - Indefinite, subject to reconsideration on a future application to Council by the person being banned;
 - c) the designation of certain hours when the person is not permitted on any or a specified portion of BRFN Lands;
 - d) terms of probation for a specified period of time, the breach of which would result in a pre-determined full or partial ban;
 - d) orders for recovery of costs or expenses; and
 - e) such other orders as Council may issue to accomplish the purposes of this Law.
- 8.3 Except for urgent matters covered by section 8.5, Council will not issue an order under section 8.2 against a Band member without a Review Hearing.
- 8.4 Council may issue an order under section 8.2 against a person who is not a Band member without the requirement for a hearing or advance notice.
- 8.5 Council may issue an order under section 8.2 against a Band member without a Review Hearing if, in the opinion of the Council, an urgent situation exists and a

delay in issuing such an order could reasonably be expected to result in real or perceived dangers to the safety, health or peace of other persons on BRFN Lands.

8.6 If Council decides to hold a Review Hearing under this Law, the Council shall:

- a) Schedule a Review Hearing;
- b) At least fourteen (14) days prior to the Review Hearing:
 - i) give written notice to the person subject to the Hearing of the date, time and place of the Hearing and inform the person that he or she has the right to appear and be heard at the Hearing; and
 - ii) Post a copy of that notice in the Band office;
- c) No later than five (5) calendar days prior to the Review Hearing, provide the person subject to the Hearing with a summary of the facts then known to Chief and Council. The person will not need to be provided with the names or identifying information of any persons who provided information to the First Nation on the matter.
- d) Review Hearings are open to members of the First Nation, subject to 8.6(g).
- e) At the Hearing, provide the person subject to the Hearing:
 - i) with a summary of the material facts supporting the allegations, which can include facts learned since the summary under subsection 8.6(c) was prepared, and which need not provide the names of witnesses or complainants; and
 - ii) an opportunity to present information and make oral and written submissions;

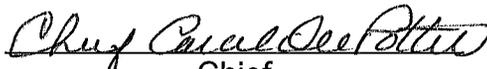
- f) Provide any Band member present at the Hearing the opportunity to be heard, and give the person subject to the Hearing an opportunity to further respond;
- g) Meet *in camera* to consider the matter after the Hearing has concluded;
- h) Produce written reasons in support of the decision within ten (10) days of the hearing to the person subject to Review;
- i) Post the written reasons (redacted to delete personal or third party identifying information) in the Band Office five (5) business days after it is communicated to the person subject to Review.

8.7 If Council issues an order without a hearing in accordance with section 8.5, the person against whom the order is issued can request a Reconsideration Hearing within thirty (30) days of receiving the Band Council's decision, by written notice to the Chief of the First Nation or the Band Manager. A Reconsideration Hearing will follow the processes set out in section 8.6, modified as required by the circumstances.

9. GENERAL

9.1 If any section or subsection of this Law is for any reason held invalid by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalid section or subsection will be severed from and not affect the remaining provisions of this Law.

A quorum of this Band consists of 3 Council Members.


Chief


Councillor


Councillor


Councillor