

August 24, 2016

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Re: Invitation to MICSA Roundtable

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I'm writing on behalf of the Penobscot Indian Nation to invite you to participate on a Roundtable panel that will review of the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 (MICSA). The Roundtable will take place at the University of Maine in the Robert D. Buchanan Alumni House, McIntire Room, 160 College Avenue, Orono, Maine, 04473, on Monday, September 19, 2016 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM.

Participants invited will include representatives from the Maine Indian Tribes, officials from the Obama Administration, Members of Congress, State of Maine officials, and scholars and historians familiar with the Act.

As you know, the land claims underlying MICSA were complex and had tremendous social, legal, and economic implications. The claims covered 60% of the State with 350,000 people living in the disputed area. The Maine Tribes agreed to settle the land disputes in return for compensation, reserved lands, and the promise that the Penobscot Indian Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe would retain authority over activities on the reservations and that their traditions and culture would be respected. It was also agreed that the Tribes would continue the trust relationship with the federal government.

The Act has worked to quiet title to the disputed lands. However, the relationship between the Tribes and the State of Maine has not functioned well for the past few

decades, in part, due to failures with MICSA, questionable interpretations of the Act, and contentious litigation.

I hope that you or your representative will be able to join us at this important discussion that we hope will begin to restore this relationship and examine solutions to bring about the full intentions and implementation of the Settlement Act. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me or my staff at 207-817-7349 or email at [mary.settles@penobscotnation.org](mailto:mary.settles@penobscotnation.org) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Kirk Francis, Chief  
Penobscot Indian Nation