

**Sisson Mine Accommodation and Tax Agreements**  
**Maliseet Member Information**  
January 31, 2017

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**Sisson Mine Accommodation**

- On January 31, 2017, the Maliseet communities signed two agreements with the Province: Sisson Project Agreement (“**Accommodation Agreement**”) and a Land and Resources Strategic Planning Agreement (“**Joint Table Agreement**”).
- These are Agreements with government, not the company.
- Neither Agreement involves Maliseet support, or consent to the Sisson Mine (the way many project agreements do).
- This is the first ever provincial accommodation to the Maliseet for a project that affects Maliseet rights.
- Most of the Maliseet Chiefs strongly opposed the Mine and urged the Province to reject it. But the Province approved the Mine in December 2015.
- Province would only sign the new Tax Agreement with communities that signed onto the Sisson Accommodation.
- Chiefs had three options: 1. Do nothing 2. Take legal action 3. Sign the accommodation agreement. (Taking legal action would have cost millions of dollars which would have come out of our revenues and would last many years and it is very uncertain that we would have won.)

**Tax Agreement**

- Each Maliseet community signed a new tax agreement on January 31, 2017: *Agreement on the Collection of Provincial Tobacco Tax, Gasoline & Motive Fuel Tax, and Harmonized Sales Tax.*
- The Tax Agreement encourages economic development within the communities and allows each community to raise revenues by retaining most of the sales tax, tobacco tax and fuel tax collected by businesses operating on reserve.
- The Maliseet communities need the Tax Agreement revenues to provide important programs and services to their members that federal funding does not cover. They are critical for economic stability and greater independence from the provincial and federal governments.
- The Province could cancel the old tax agreement on 90-days’ notice, which the last provincial government threatened to do.
- The new Tax Agreement will be in place for at least 6 years and potentially much longer, and it allows for growth in tax revenues beyond current levels.

### **Sisson Mine Accommodations:**

- \$3 million up-front to the Maliseet Nation (to be shared between the 6 communities) once the federal government approves the Sisson Mine.
  - Revenue-sharing on Sisson Mine
    - Training and employment
      - New Crown Land
  - Compensation in case of accident or malfunction
    - Strategic Rights Plan
    - Joint Planning Table

The Chiefs were very unimpressed with the accommodations presented by the Provincial government and believe that in no way do these accommodations make up for the adverse impact that the Sisson Mine will have to our Aboriginal and Treaty Rights. However, not signing the accommodations agreement would leave us with zero benefits from a project that has already been approved and would result in the provincial government thinking they can continue to degrade our territory without accommodating us in any way.

For more information please contact [meganfullarton@smfn.ca](mailto:meganfullarton@smfn.ca) or 506-459-2200 ext. 108 or 506-476-4385