



PRESS RELEASE

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RETURN OF CAIRN ISLAND TO AKWESASNE RESERVE

The Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) is pleased to announce that after over 15 years of diligent efforts through the Additions to Reserve (ATR) process, Cairn Island has been formally returned to the Akwesasne Reserve through Ministerial Order. This significant milestone reflects the perseverance and dedication of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) and the collaboration with Parks Canada to restore land to its rightful owners.

Cairn Island, located within the traditional territory of the Mohawks of Akwesasne, holds immense cultural and historical importance to our community. Expropriated in 1922, the land was removed from Akwesasne's care and designated as a historic site under Parks Canada's supervision. The expropriation stemmed from use of the island in the mid-1800s, when the Glengarry Highlanders erected a monument, or "cairn," without consent from the community.

The successful return of Cairn Island through Ministerial Order is a testament to the resilience of the Mohawks of Akwesasne and our commitment to reclaiming our lands.

The island, deeply woven into the identity and traditions of the Mohawk people, will once again serve as a place of cultural and historical significance for Akwesasne.

The Akwesasne Rights and Research Office extends its gratitude to past members of ARRO, former Portfolio Chiefs, and partners who contributed to this achievement.

For more information, please contact:
Akwesasne Rights and Research Office
Cheyenne Lazore
Acting Manager
613-575-2250 ext. 2134