

Dear Neighbours,

Summer 2022 has finally arrived and it is great to welcome visitors to this beautiful Island--Epekwitk-- and to PEI National Park and National Historic Sites. Please see the following updates from Skmaqñ—Port-la-Joye—Fort Amherst National Historic Site.

### **Skmaqñ—Port-la-Joye—Fort Amherst hours**

- Visitor Reception Centre is open daily from 9-5pm until August 31  
*(Please note the exterior interpretive panels have been removed due to poor condition. A new outdoor interpretive exhibit is expected to be installed this fall.)*  
**Day-use washrooms (lower parking lot area)** are open until August 31.
- **Trails available year-round**
- Skmaqñ—Port-la-Joye—Fort Amherst National Historic Site is free of charge to visitors.

### **Indigenous Heritage Programming at Skmaqñ—Port-la-Joye—Fort Amherst**

Mi'kmaq heritage is a vital part of the historical significance of Skmaqñ—Port-la-Joye—Fort Amherst. A Grand Alliance was forged here between the Mi'kmaq and the French - one of only two locations in North America where this was traditionally celebrated annually with speeches, gifting and feasting. This summer, Parks Canada is pleased to bring alive the Mi'kmaq history of Epekwitk at Skmaqñ—Port-la-Joye—Fort Amherst. Join Indigenous heritage presenters on site and be immersed in the stories, history and language of the Mi'kmaq people.

Activities take place Mondays from 9 am to 5 pm, July 4 to August 29 at the wigwam located on site. Visitors will find the wigwam on the left before the lower parking lot at the end of Haché Gallant Drive. It can also be accessed from the Coastal Forest Path, a trail which starts behind the Visitor Reception Centre.

### **Visiting Skmaqñ—Port-la-Joye—Fort Amherst National Historic Site – General Information**

Park Wardens are on duty seven days per week throughout the year. In case of an emergency, call 911. Visitors who wish to report a non-emergency issue (e.g., facility damage, wildlife concern, law enforcement issue) can call Parks Canada Dispatch at 1-877-852-3100.

Please visit [parks canada.gc.ca/skmaqñ](https://parks canada.gc.ca/skmaqñ) for the latest updates. If you have comments or inquiries, you may contact: 902-675-2220 (Visitor Information Centre), 1-888-773-8888 (toll free) or [skmaqñ@pc.gc.ca](mailto:skmaqñ@pc.gc.ca).

### **Visitor Guidelines**

We appreciate and realize that your dog is an important family member. You are able to take your dog along any trails.

However, there are a number of regulations pertaining to domestic animals while in Prince Edward Island National Park and National Historic Sites, including:

- You must pick up any droppings from your pet and place them in a refuse container.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash (max length 3 m) at all times.

Please remember these essential points while on-site:

- Prevent your dog from disturbing other visitors. This includes barking in common areas, or at wildlife.

- Do not bring your dog into the washrooms, or any public building.
- If you have a service dog, please read our process for accommodating service animals and call **(902) 566-7050**

Enjoy your time at Skmaq—Port-la-Joye—Fort Amherst with all your family members.

### Park Promise



*Park Promise artwork by Loretta Gould.*

*Have you heard about the Park Promise? As stewards of Prince Edward Island National Park, Parks Canada is passionate about the preservation of Canada's ecosystems and the species that call them home. We know that Islanders and visitors care too. It was in this caring devotion for Prince Edward Island National Park and the environment in general that the roots of this special project began. Parks Canada worked closely with PEI's poet laureate, Julie Pellissier-Lush, a Knowledge Keeper from Lennox Island First Nation, to pull together Indigenous teachings and our own hopes for a healthier, more sustainable future into the words, images, and sounds that have become our Park Promise. This year our focus is particularly oriented toward dune conservation. Stay tuned for more on the Park Promise this summer through Ocean 100, Hot 105.5, and *La Voix Acadienne*!*

To learn more about the Park Promise and to watch the video, check out our website:

**Sign up and [make your own Park Promise here](#).** If you can, share your promise on social media with **#ParkPromise** and tag others to help spread the word.