



Maw-lukutijik **Saqmaq**
Assembly of Nova Scotia
Mi'kmaw Chiefs

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September 11, 2026

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NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT

— and —

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION by EFFICIENCYONE for approval of the 2027 2031 Demand-Side Management (DSM) Purchase Agreement between EfficiencyOne and Nova Scotia Power Incorporated, the establishment of a final agreement between the parties, and approval of a 2027-2031 Demand-Side Management (DSM) Resource Plan



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Submission of the
Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs
AND
Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO)

As noted in our opening remarks, Mi'kmaw households in Nova Scotia continue to experience higher-than-average energy costs and challenges with indoor air quality.

With the help of Demand Side Management funding, our communities will be able to continue to strengthen energy efficiency and conservation efforts in hundreds of households across the province. To date, these types of investments have been shown to improve home comfort and indoor air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create local employment opportunities, and help lower energy costs for Mi'kmaw families and communities.

These benefits are not theoretical. They have already been demonstrated through the success of the Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Program.

When programs are designed and delivered in partnership with our communities and informed by Mi'kmaw perspectives, they can successfully advance both community priorities and the broader public interest. The experience that our Mi'kmaw communities continue to have with this Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project demonstrates what can be achieved when provincial investments are developed through genuine partnership and shared commitment.

EfficiencyOne has listened to feedback from our Mi'kmaw communities and has incorporated several important initiatives into the proposed Plan. These include continued investments in Mi'kmaw energy efficiency programming, heat pump education and maintenance, business and community development initiatives, continuation of the Roving Energy Manager program, the Green Schools Program, and new residential construction incentives - including support for solar photovoltaic installations. Under s. 7(b) of the *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act*, the Government's goals with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, include "to support, strengthen and set targets for energy efficiency programming while prioritizing equitable access and benefits for low income and marginalized Nova Scotians." We see the funding for solar photovoltaic installations as an important energy efficiency program that is consistent with this goal.

These investments will create opportunities to improve energy efficiency, energy affordability, strengthen community resilience, increase local energy independence, and support long-term economic development within Mi'kmaw communities.

They will also highlight the collaborative relationship that can be built with Mi'kmaw leadership, enabling opportunities to be delivered in ways that reflect community priorities and local circumstances.

While noting all the above, we cannot however lose sight of how small an overall portion of the total funding Mi'kmaw-specific programming represents in the Demand-Side Management Plan. A very small percentage of the total expenditure is dedicated to Mi'kmaw-specific funding. With the Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project winding down early in the Plan, it is even more important to ensure programming for our communities are representative and proportionate.

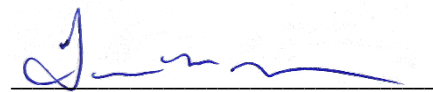
Looking ahead, the success of the 2027 to 2031 Plan should be evaluated with the same level of transparency and accountability that has allowed the achievements of the Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Program to be clearly demonstrated.

The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs supports transparent reporting measures that allow the Board and Mi'kmaw communities to assess outcomes, measure progress, and identify opportunities for continuous improvement throughout implementation.

The Demand-Side Management Plan can be more than a policy. It can be an investment in healthier homes, a mechanism to lower energy costs, a means to build stronger communities, and a way to establish a more sustainable future for all of Nova Scotia.

For those reasons and in closing, the Assembly and KMK hereby respectfully ask the Board to approve the proposed 2027 to 2031 Demand-Side Management Resource Plan, and the accompanying Purchase Agreement.

Wela'lioq, thank you.



Chief Tamara Young
Portfolio Lead Chief for Environment, Energy and Mines
Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs