



[First Light Learning Journey](#)

We are pleased to extend an invitation to you and your staff to attend an important meeting to discuss the possibilities of using cultural easements to expand Native access to land and water in Maine. This meeting is co-sponsored with University of Maine's Native American Programs and Professor Darren Ranco.

The meeting is Tuesday, May 8th from noon to 4:00pm in the Wabanaki Center in the big seminar Room, 220 Corbett Hall, University of Maine at Orono. Our special guest will be Ramona Peters, founder of the Native Land Conservancy and the Historic Preservation Officer at Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. Ramona's organization is the first east of the Mississippi to use a cultural easement to gain deeded access for her people for the holding of ceremony and the harvesting of plants.

The goal of the May 8th meeting is to give Tribe's natural resource directors and cultural preservation officers with information and the sheltered space to discuss opportunities of these easements and for collaboration with Maine land trusts. Because we recognize that there are costs associated with your participation in this meeting, we will be giving each Tribe a payment of \$500.00 in respectful consideration of your travel costs.

The purpose of First Light Learning Journey is to foster awareness and points of relationship between Native and non-Native conservationists in Maine that will lead directly to expanded access to land and water for Wabanaki people.

We hope you can attend and ask that [you RSVP here](#).

Yours sincerely,

Darren Ranco, PhD
Chair of Native American Programs

Peter Forbes
First Light Learning Journey