



First Light Community Letter of Commitment

Since 1991 the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust has worked to sustain the ecological, economic, and social vitality of the Rangeley Lakes Region, in the land we now call Maine, by conserving, restoring, and stewarding its lands and waters for present and future generations.

As a result of our membership in Confluence, the First Light Learning Journey in 2024-2025, the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust (RLHT) Board and Staff have gained an awareness of the impact of the systems in place as a result of colonization that have profoundly and negatively impacted our Wabanaki neighbors.

As part of our work going forward, and in solidarity with the goals of First Light and the Wabanaki Nations, we will:

- Continue, and strengthen, our working relationship with the Penobscot Nation, particularly at Alder Stream Township where we are partnering with the Penobscot Nation on a stream restoration project
- Seek out additional ways to forge relationships with indigenous peoples in the region
- Commit to continuing and strengthening the acknowledgment in our written materials and in our spoken word that the Wabanaki people have long inhabited this region in the Western Mountains of the land we now call Maine
- As part of our commitment to encourage public access to RLHT lands, welcome members of the Wabanaki Nations on these lands. We will make that welcome clear through the integration of recommendations found in the interpretive sign plan that was created for the RLHT by James E. Francis Sr (Penobscot), Tilly Laskey (Maquoit Museum Solutions), Mali Obomsawin (Abenaki from Odanak First Nation), and Darren Ranco (Penobscot)
- Seek ways to contribute, in a show of solidarity with the Wabanaki peoples, to the Wolankeyutomone kisi apaciyewik ("Let us take good care of what is returned") fund
- Recognize that members of the Wabanaki Nations may desire cultural access to RLHT lands for community gatherings and to gather materials for traditional and cultural purposes, such as black ash and sweetgrass, and we invite and welcome Wabanaki people to do this
- Recognizing that learning and unlearning is ongoing, commit to having more members of the RLHT board and staff participate in First Light programming, either in person or through the self guided curriculum
- Continue an active relationship with First Light in support of our Wabanaki neighbors

November 2025

David Miller, Executive Director of the RLHT

Dan Higgins, Board Chair of the RLHT

Laura Appell-Warren, Board Member of the RLHT and Confluence member

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