



Joint Statement from the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Chiefs On the Tragic Loss of a Penobscot Citizen at Indian Township

Dear Tribal Citizens:

We are writing as the Chiefs of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation, to express our shock and deep sadness following the tragic death of a Penobscot citizen at Indian Township on Saturday, October 10th. Our hearts are with the family and loved ones of the individual who lost their life, and with the entire Wabanaki community as we grieve this devastating loss.

Family is at the heart of who we are as Wabanaki People. Our communities are connected through generations of kinship, traditions, shared histories, and our responsibility to care for one another. When a life is lost to violence, the pain reaches beyond one family. It is felt throughout our communities and across our Nations. We recognize the sorrow, fear, and uncertainty that many are experiencing, and we want our people to know that their grief is seen, their concerns are heard, and they are not alone.

Our Wabanaki values call us to live with love for one another and for Mother Earth, to protect our families, to strengthen our communities, and to seek peace in the way we treat one another. These values are not simply words; they are the foundation of who we are as Wabanaki People. Senseless violence has no place in our communities. Every life is precious, and every family deserves to live in peace, safety, and dignity.

We understand that this tragedy has raised difficult questions and that our communities are seeking answers. Tribal law enforcement has been involved and is working in coordination with State of Maine law enforcement as the investigation proceeds. Thank you to all of those in the law enforcement community who have been and will continue to be involved in the response to this incident. We recognize the importance of providing our people with answers and will continue to support efforts to establish the facts surrounding this tragic loss. We ask for patience as the investigation moves forward and for respect for the process as those involved work to determine what happened. We are committed to sharing information with our communities as it becomes available and can appropriately be released.

We also recognize that a tragedy of this magnitude affects the emotional and mental well-being of our citizens in different ways. Community response teams and mental health support resources are available in each of our communities to assist citizens and families who may be struggling with grief, trauma, fear, or uncertainty. We encourage anyone who needs support to reach out and make use of these resources. Seeking help is a sign of strength, and no one should feel that they have to carry the weight of this tragedy alone. We encourage our citizens to check on one another, support our elders and young people, and ensure that those who are hurting know they have people and resources they can turn to.



As we navigate this painful time, we must make room for grief while drawing strength from the love, unity, and resilience that have sustained our Wabanaki people through countless generations. Our responsibility to one another does not end when a tragedy occurs. It calls us to stand together, care for our families, and work toward communities where our people feel safe, supported, and valued.

To the family and loved ones of the Penobscot citizen who was taken from us, we offer our deepest condolences. We recognize that no words can take away the pain of losing someone you love. Please know that you are held in the hearts of our Nations, and that our communities stand with you as you face the difficult days ahead.

As Chiefs, we stand together in mourning this loss and reaffirming our shared responsibility to protect the well-being of our people. Our strength has always come from family, community, peace, and love for one another. In this moment of sorrow, we must hold firmly to those values and work together toward healing, understanding, and a safer future for all our people.

May the family find strength in the love that surrounds them. May our communities find comfort in one another. And may we honor our Wabanaki traditions by choosing compassion, protecting life, supporting those who are struggling, and standing together in peace.

With deepest sympathy and in unity,

Amkuwiposohehs "Pos" Bassett (Oct 11, 2026 18:18:10 EDT)

Chief Amkuwiposohehs "Pos" Bassett
Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik (Pleasant Point)

Chief Kirk Francis
Penobscot Nation

William Nicholas Sr. (Oct 11, 2026 18:24:09 EDT)

Chief William Nicholas Sr.
Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk (Indian Township)