



For Immediate Release  
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## **Citizens pledge support for Pictou Landing First Nation and closure of Boat Harbour on schedule**

Pictou, NS: The crowd that gathered at Harbour House in Pictou Tuesday evening was passionate in their support for Pictou Landing First Nation and closure of Boat Harbour on January 31, 2020.

The occasion was the world premiere of the short video, [Pictou Landing](#), and the official launch of the [Declaration of Support for the Closure of Boat Harbour on Schedule](#).

Mark Lang's video, *Pictou Landing*, was received with applause and tears. Lang, an Australian singer-songwriter, filmed footage of the Boat Harbour Treatment facility while on vacation in Nova Scotia last summer. The film gives an inside view into the reality of Boat Harbour, "Few Pictou County residents outside of Pictou Landing First Nation have ever seen Boat Harbour," said Gayl Nelson, Pictou County resident. "We hear that it is an environmental disaster, but to see it and imagine living beside it is horrifying."

Jill Graham-Scanlan, President of Friends of the Northumberland Strait, explained why the group organized the event and the Declaration.

"We feel that this is not a time to be silent," Graham-Scanlan said. "Promises have been made and broken for decades about ending the use of Boat Harbour for mill effluent. We felt it was important to create a way for people to take a public stand in support of Pictou Landing First Nation. The PLFN community has clearly and repeatedly said they want Boat Harbour closed on schedule. We are asking people to say, we stand with you, we support your decisions, you are not alone. Especially at this moment, as Northern Pulp is calling for the Boat Harbour Act to be broken."

The Declaration is endorsed by Pictou Landing First Nation.

"This is not just a Pictou Landing First Nation responsibility," says Warren Francis, a PLFN fisherman. "This affects all of Pictou County and all of Nova Scotia."

After watching the video this morning, Chief Andrea Paul posted, "Sitting here crying my eyes out watching this video. No more of this in our waters. No more of this toxic waste. We all deserve to live in an environment free of toxicity."

FONS is also organizing an Open House on Sunday, December 9, from 1-3 pm at the Fisheries Museum in Pictou. The public is encouraged to drop in, watch the video and sign the Declaration. There will be cider and seasonal goodies.

The Declaration of Support for the Closure of Boat Harbour January 31, 2020 can also be signed on line at [friendsofthenorthumberlandstrait.ca](https://www.friendsofthenorthumberlandstrait.ca). Over 1500 signatures have already been gathered to date.

The video *Pictou Landing* can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/DDYwZO9Ot44> The song *Pictou Landing*, soundtrack for the video, will be available soon on Spotify.

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**Links:**

Short Film, Pictou Landing: <https://youtu.be/DDYwZO9Ot44>

Declaration of Support for the Closure of Boat Harbour on Schedule: <https://www.friendsofthenorthumberlandstrait.ca/copy-of-send-a-letter-in-one-minute>