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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NIPMUC NATION TO ANNOUNCE LEADERSHIP DURING HASSANAMISCO POWWOW**

*Historic ceremony will name Interim Nipmuc Nation Sonksq and Interim Hassanamisco Tribal Sonksq*

[GRAFTON, Mass.] — [7/24/2026] — The Nipmuc Nation announces that it will hold a historic ceremony during the Hassanamisco Powwow on July 26, 2026 at 1pm, to formally recognize two interim leadership positions established to guide the Nation while preserving the values, traditions, and responsibilities of Nipmuc governance.

The ceremony will formally name an Interim Nipmuc Nation Sonksq and an Interim Hassanamisco Tribal Sonksq. Together, these two distinct positions reflect the enduring balance between governmental leadership and traditional cultural stewardship that defines Nipmuc governance.

#### **Interim Nipmuc Nation Sonksq**

The Interim Nipmuc Nation Sonksq will serve as the Nation's principal political and governmental representative. In this capacity, the Sonksq will represent the Nipmuc Nation in its relationships with federal, state, local, and other Tribal governments, while providing leadership grounded in the Nation's culture and values. The Sonksq will additionally support educational initiatives, strengthen intergovernmental partnerships, and advocate for the rights, sovereignty, and future of the Nipmuc Nation.

#### **Interim Hassanamisco Tribal Sonksq**

The Interim Hassanamisco Tribal Sonksq will serve as the Nation's traditional cultural leader, entrusted with preserving and promoting Nipmuc traditions, cultural practices, and spiritual

teachings. Responsibilities of this position include leading ceremonies and cultural gatherings, providing traditional guidance, promoting cultural preservation and heritage, serving as a peacekeeper, and upholding the well-being of Nipmuc citizens.

### **A Shared Commitment**

While each position carries distinct and separate responsibilities, both leaders share a common commitment to serving the Nipmuc people with integrity, respect, and dedication. Together, they will work to strengthen the Nation by honoring its traditions while advancing its governmental responsibilities and relationships.

The Nipmuc Nation invites members of the public to join in witnessing this significant occasion and in celebrating the continuity of leadership that has sustained the Nation for generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tenah Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tenah" being more prominent and the last name "Richardson" following in a similar style.

Tenah Richardson  
Chairperson, Nipmuc Nation  
Hassanamisco Tribe