

## Acadian + Celtic North Connections

### Union of Saints

- **Acadians** are primarily descendants of French settlers who established communities in what became the Maritime provinces beginning in the 1400s-1600s.
- The **Maritime region and Northern New England** also have strong Scottish, Irish, and Gaelic settlement and cultural traditions, particularly in Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, New Brunswick, Maine, and other parts of New England.
- **Acadian and Celtic communities** developed alongside one another, creating cultural connections through music, dance, maritime traditions, storytelling, religion, food, family life, and community traditions.
- **Cape Breton** is particularly known for its Scottish Gaelic heritage, while **northern New Brunswick and the Acadian Peninsula** are strongly associated with Acadian culture. **Maine and Northern New England** became important parts of the regional network through migration, settlement, trade, fishing, and family connections.
- The **Acadian world extended beyond modern political borders**. Families moved between the Maritime provinces and New England, creating lasting connections between Acadian communities in Canada and communities throughout Maine and the wider New England region.
- There were also **intermarriages and cultural exchanges among French, Irish, Scottish, Mi'kmaq, Wabanaki, and other peoples** over the centuries. These relationships are an important part of the complex history of the North.
- The **Mi'kmaq and Wabanaki peoples** represent the Indigenous history of this region, whose relationship with the land and waters predates Acadian, Celtic, and other European settlement by thousands of years.
- Together, these histories help describe a **northern Atlantic cultural landscape** connecting Acadia, the Maritime provinces, Maine, and New England. "Acadian Celtic North" can therefore be used as a cultural and historical concept describing these overlapping connections, rather than as a single ethnic or political identity.

**Acadian + Celtic + Mi'kmaq North" Grand Dérangement, New England migration, and the return to Acadia.**

Magdalene Convents, Ireland