Recently the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Government of Ontario signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Métis economic development and formally announced the creation of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF). MVDF is the result of years of effort and work by the MNO to create an economic development arm that will support Métis entrepreneurs and businesses in Ontario, similar to other Métis funds, which have been operating successfully for several years in Western Canada.

The Fund, which has been set up as an arms-length, for-profit corporation, will be professionally managed by an independent Board of Directors selected based upon skill and expertise in business. An interim Board of Directors has been appointed for the Fund and they are currently seeking the organization’s first Chief Executive Officer.

THE CANDIDATE:

The successful Chief Executive Officer (CEO) would be described as a “high achiever” who will roll-up their sleeves in creating a portfolio of strategic investments that will positively contribute to Métis individuals, families and communities as well as to Ontario’s overall economy. This role will appeal to an experienced entrepreneur/leader with a track record for successfully exploring, developing and implementing innovative business and investment initiatives.

The CEO will take a collaborative approach to implementing the Board of Director’s vision through strategic work plans and sound investment processes. She/he will lead the fund’s start-up process, developing and implementing the organization’s policies, procedures and systems, hiring and leading staff, identifying and securing office space, equipment and furnishings, securing bank accounts and credit lines, etc.

She/he will be skilled in evaluating all aspects of new business and investment opportunities as well as developing business plans, short- and long-term lending strategies, grant programs, comprehensive marketing plans, risk management systems, feasibility studies, financial projections, etc. The CEO will thrive on building strong relationships and have a reputation for establishing effective partnerships and joint ventures as well as being a collaborative influence and will possess the following fundamental requirements:

- A Bachelor of Commerce or Masters of Business Administration degree or equivalent with a minimum of ten (10) years of experience in business and economic development or an equivalent combination of education and experience;
- A proven track-record of successfully leading start-up processes, operating capital corporations or funds, and leveraging and accessing financial resources from Government, the private sector and other sources;
- Essential executive skills, including: leadership, coaching, human resource management, strategic planning, financial, administrative, policy development, risk management, negotiation and marketing;
- An ability to prepare and analyze lending arrangement, investments, business plans, financial forecasts, feasibility studies, concept papers, etc. for presentation to Boards of Directors and potential business partners;
- Excellent listening, verbal and written communication as well as interpersonal skills;
- Demonstrated tact and diplomacy as well as sound judgment and decision making skills;
- Experience working effectively and collaboratively with Métis communities and organizations and/or a willingness to learn about and then honour Métis culture and traditions;
- Ability to travel extensively and relocate to either Ottawa or Toronto, ON; and
- Métis heritage, ability to speak French and experience in the Natural Resource sector will be considered an asset.

An attractive compensation package is offered for this Ontario based position. If you are qualified and ready for this exciting start-up challenge, please provide your resume and cover letter in confidence by September 7th, 2011 to Brock Higgins at brock@higginsinc.com or via fax to 1 (888) 821-2451.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Brock Higgins at (613) 680-0077 or via email.