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 a 5 to 7 person independent Board of Directors selected based upon skill and expertise in business. Currently, an appointed Board of Directors is managing the fund on an interim basis until a permanent Board is selected. The interim Board, under a mandate to undertake a province-wide call for Directors, is currently seeking interested and qualified candidates who can positively contribute to the goals and mandate of the MVDF.

THE CANDIDATES:
The Directors will provide independent and objective oversight to the MVDF with the vision, leadership skills and passion to make a positive contribution to the MVDF board and organization. The Board is responsible for the overall strategic direction and performance for the MVDF in a manner that is consistent with its mandate and by-laws. MVDF is seeking individuals from diverse professional and educational backgrounds that have strong knowledge of current governance practices are residents of Ontario and possesses the following skills and/or knowledge:

- Specialized experience, knowledge or designation which might meet the specific requirements of the Board (e.g. entrepreneur, specialized lawyer, accountant, human resources professional, cultural expert, etc.)
- Essential executive skills, including: leadership, coaching, human resource management, strategic planning, financial management, administration, policy development, risk management, and negotiation;
- Excellent listening, verbal and written communication as well as interpersonal skills;
- Demonstrated tact and diplomacy as well as an ability to make sound decisions based on an independent assessment that considers the protection of public interest, sound business practices and compliance with relevant legislation, by-laws and regulations.
- Experience working effectively and collaboratively with Métis communities and organizations and/or a willingness to learn about and then honour Métis culture and traditions; and
- Ability to follow through on the necessary time commitment and travel throughout Ontario.

Individuals eligible for appointment may include Métis Nation of Ontario citizens, self-identifying Métis individuals who are resident in Ontario or other individuals who meet the requirements for Directors.

Interested individuals may apply for either a two or three year term and are invited to submit a cover letter and resume electronically, staking the skills, qualifications, experience and other relevant factors that they bring to the MVDF Board by September 14th, 2011 to Brenda LaRose at brenda@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 Brenda LaRose at (204) 257-9929 or via email.