REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

Métis Traditional Knowledge Study
for the Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Traditional Territory

Background:

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), through its democratic governance structures at the local, regional and provincial levels, represents a rights-bearing Métis community that lives in, uses and relies on the Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten region (the “Métis community”). A general map of the Métis community’s traditional territory is attached as Appendix A.

Through trade, kinship connections, mobility, seasonal rounds (i.e., harvesting practices), socio-economic drivers and political organization, a distinct and identifiable historic Métis community emerged in this region of the province, which is a part of the larger Métis Nation. Today, the descendants of this historic Métis community continue to live throughout this region and constitute a contemporary Métis community, consistent with the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in R. v. Powley.

This contemporary Métis community has land, harvesting, cultural, spiritual and economic rights and interests throughout its traditional territory, which co-exist with the rights and interests of other Aboriginal groups throughout the region. These un-extinguished Métis rights are protected by s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and trigger the Crown’s duty to consult and accommodate.

On behalf of the rights-bearing Métis community in the Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten region, the MNO, through its governance structures at the local and regional levels, has been working with government and industry to ensure the Métis community in the region is meaningfully consulted and accommodated on projects and developments occurring in the Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten region.

In particular, as a part of the MNO’s consultation framework, the Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Regional Consultation Committee (the “Committee”) has been created to liaison with government and proponents on behalf of the regional rights-bearing Métis community. This Committee consists of the elected leadership of the MNO Community Councils in the region as well as the regionally elected Métis leadership and the Captain of the Hunt. For more information on the Committee and the MNO’s consultation framework visit www.metisnation.org.

Through its ongoing negotiations with industry, the Committee has secured financial support to undertake a Métis traditional knowledge study in the region (the “Study”) that will be used to inform ongoing engagement, consultation, accommodation and monitoring on specific projects in the region that have the potential to affect the regional Métis community’s rights, interests and way of life. In order to assist the Métis community in the completion of the Study, the Committee is looking for a qualified consultant.
Call for Proposals:
The Committee seeks immediately a proven consultant or consulting company to assist the Métis community in completing the Study. A comprehensive report must be completed by the Autumn of 2011, but there may be some flexibility depending on the proposed work plan.

The consultant will need to work closely with both the Committee and the MNO Lands, Resources & Consultations branch for the coordination of interviews and completion of the study and related map. The successful candidate will:

- Conduct an initial screening of the Métis community for the purposes of the Study;
- Develop and submit an interview methodology;
- Video and audio record each interview (approx. 30, when permitted by interviewee);
- Collect traditional land use mapping data and coordinate with MNO Lands, Resources & Consultations branch to aggregate data using MNO’s in-house GIS Technician and printing capabilities;
- Produce printed and digital copies of transcripts for each interview participant (approx. 30);
- Produce a documentary-style production of video-recorded interviews in DVD format (approx. 40 copies);
- Develop and submit a draft report;
- Provide testimony on the methodology and findings of the Study to government and regulators (as required);
- Produce 10 hard bound copies of the final report;
- Develop and deliver a presentation to a Métis community feast held upon completion of study.

The successful applicant will have:
- Experience in developing and implementing sound methodologies for Aboriginal traditional knowledge studies;
- Suitable qualification to provide testimony on the methodology and findings of the Study to government and regulators (as required);
- Willingness and experience in working collaboratively with Aboriginal communities on traditional knowledge studies;
- Knowledge of the Métis in Ontario and Aboriginal way of life related issues;
- Strong communication and organizational skills and the ability to meet timelines.

Scope of Work:

1. Work with the Committee and the MNO Lands, Resources & Consultations branch to understand the demographics of the Métis community in the region and develop a screening and interview methodology for the Study;
2. Work with the Committee and the MNO Lands, Resources & Consultations branch to obtain and review any existing Métis traditional knowledge and traditional land use information relevant to the region. Prepare a list of gaps from existing information and revise/refine interview questions to fill these gaps.
3. Work with the Committee and the MNO Lands, Resources & Consultations branch to select an interview team (can include consultant, MNO staff, and/or Métis community members) and up to thirty (30) interview participants from the community with experience in traditional activities and land uses (hunting, trapping, fishing, ceremonial, etc.) within the region and/or have first-hand traditional knowledge of the region.

4. Conduct interviews in collaboration with other members of the interview team. Filming and audio recording of each interview will be required whenever possible and permitted by the interviewee. Interviews should be about 2 to 4 hours in length and may need to be conducted over several sessions. Interviews can be conducted “in the field”, at an MNO office, the home or office of the interviewee, or another location as determined by the interview team and interviewee.

5. Collect traditional land use mapping data from interview participants and coordinate with MNO’s GIS Specialist to aggregate data.

6. Develop a report on the study findings, including copies of all transcripts and maps produced.

7. Develop a documentary-style film of all video-recorded interviews.

8. Deliver documentary-style film and accompanying presentation at a Métis community feast held within the Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten region.

Proposal Guidelines:
The proposal should include a plain language summary of the research and study plan, methods and approaches, any ethical considerations, a list of activities and corresponding timelines to complete the plan, a detailed budget, and a description of expertise (including CV’s for all contractors and subcontractors to be engaged in this project). A short but concise work plan is required.

Preference will be given to Métis consultants or Métis-owned consulting companies or consultants or companies based in Northwestern Ontario.

More information on existing programs and services can be found at: [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org) or feel free to contact Brian Tucker, Manager of Métis Traditional Knowledge and Land Use at 905-301-5203 or [BrianT@metisnation.org](mailto:BrianT@metisnation.org).

Please submit proposals by July 29th, 2011 at 5:30 pm (EST) addressed to the MNO Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Regional Consultation Committee. Copies of your proposal should be sent to the address below:

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<td>MNO Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Regional Consultation Committee c/o Kevin Muloin, Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch Métis Nation of Ontario 231 Brodie St. S Thunder Bay, ON P7E1C1 Tel: (807)626-9876 x401</td>
<td>MNO Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Regional Consultation Committee c/o Brian Tucker, Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch Métis Nation of Ontario <a href="mailto:BrianT@metisnation.org">BrianT@metisnation.org</a></td>
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APPENDIX A

This map identifies, in a general way, the traditional territory of a Mētis community that has a common cultural identity, use together in the same geographic area and share a common way of life. The map indicates areas where there was historical presence, settlement and occupation by the Mētis community, as well as historical use, including, harvesting, cultures, social and economic activities. It also incorporates the community’s ongoing contemporary presence, use and activities throughout the territory.

The Mētis community has social, economic and cultural structures that are regional in scope and connected to other Mētis communities in the region. This map is based on existing sources, interviews with Mētis in the region and information from the Mētis Nation of Ontario’s Registry. It may be modified in the future as a result of additional historical documentation. Further interviews with Mētis and other bands.

Legend
- Mētis Community Councils
- Major Road
- River/Stream
- Waterbody

Consultation Protocol Areas
- James Bay/Atikameksheng
- Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul
- Rainy Lake/Pikangikum
- Leekochee/Oppi/Opibikek
- South Slave/Wapusk

Figure 1

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