MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has an incredible opportunity for a contractor or company skilled in planning comprehensive Indigenous Government engagement processes to work with the MNO in advancing our cause of self-governance, on our path toward Métis self-government in Ontario.

The successful contractor or company will work in partnership with the MNO and its provincial, regional, and local levels of governance to support the implementation of the commitments outlined in the MNO-Canada Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement ("MGRSA") and the Regional Implementation Agreements. Information about the Self-Government Agreement can be found at http://www.metisnation.org/news-media/news/press-release/. Specifically, the work will be focused on commitments related to community engagement, communications, education, and Constitution consultation and development.

RFP Reference Number: MNO Self-Government Community Consultation – RFP 2020-01

Release Date: February 5, 2020
Closing Date: February 18, 2020

1. BACKGROUND

The Métis Nation of Ontario

The MNO was established in 1993. Through the collective will and efforts of Ontario Métis over the last 25 years, the MNO has evolved into a sophisticated and well-respected province-wide Métis government in the eyes of its own people as well as other governments and third parties. Some of the components of our self-governance include:

• The fact that the MNO has almost 20,000 registered members which are referred to as citizens and who live across Ontario;

• That the MNO’s province-wide governance structure includes a 19 member Provisional Council (the “PCMNO”), 9 Regions (“MNO Regions”), and 32 Chartered Community Councils (“MNO Community Councils”) that work together to represent MNO members wherever they live in Ontario;

• That throughout the MNO’s overall governance structure all leadership positions are democratically elected by the constituency of MNO Citizens they represent;

• That the MNO has established well run arms length institutions to deliver programs and services to its citizens and advance matters of economic development. These include the Métis Voyageur Development Fund, Infinity Investments LLP, and Infinity Property Services, amongst others;

• And that the MNO employs over 225 staff members in 33 offices across the province including the MNO headquarters in Ottawa, Ontario
The Signing of the MNO-Canada Self-Government Agreement

On June 27th, 2019, the MNO and the Government of Canada signed the MNO-Canada Métis Government Recognition and the Self-Government Agreement. This is the first time that a Self-Government Agreement has been signed with a Métis government in Canada.

With the signing of this agreement the Government of Canada formally recognized that the Métis communities represented by the MNO hold the inherent right to self-government and that the MNO has the authorization to implement that right on behalf of these communities. This kind of recognition is unique among the self-government agreements that have been negotiated between the Government of Canada and Indigenous nations within this country and is a momentous step forward for the MNO. Since its creation 26 years ago the MNO has been advocating for this kind of recognition as did Métis people throughout Ontario long before the MNO was established.

The Self-Government Agreement provides a clear path forward for the MNO to transform into a Métis Government that is formally recognized within Canadian law. There are a series of requirements that must be completed which includes the development of a Constitution for the Métis Government and the ratification of the Constitution and Self-Government Agreement by the Electors of the MNO.

This new Constitution will be the foundation and supreme law of the new Métis Government. In order for this new Métis Government to be authentic and accountable, its Constitution must reflect the values, principles, and voices of the MNO’s citizens and communities. A full list of subject matters that must be addressed by the Constitution can be found in section 6.03 of the Self-Government Agreement.

In order to arrive at a Métis Government Constitution extensive consultation and engagement with MNO Citizens and communities must occur across the province. This engagement and consultation must reach as many of the MNO’s almost 20,000 citizens as possible through a variety of methods including town halls, meetings, surveys, social media, and other forms of online engagement.

2. NATURE AND SCOPE OF WORK

The contractor will work collaboratively with the MNO, including MNO staff and MNO elected leadership at the provincial, regional, and local levels, to develop a province-wide self-government community engagement, consultation, and education process henceforth know as the Consultation Plan.

The Consultation Plan will include, at minimum:

a. Consultation principles;

b. Consultation procedures and steps (who, what, where, when, and how). This Plan must be capable of reaching all MNO citizens across the province;

c. A comprehensive outreach strategy which includes community meetings, mail-outs, email communications, website outreach, and online surveys etc.;
d. And the ability to build customized approaches or “enhancements” for regional Métis Communities that is consistent with the overall approach of the Consultation Plan, but is responsive to the demographics, geography, and unique concerns of individual Métis Communities.

The Consultation Plan may be implemented in a phased or stepped approach.

NOTE: Upon completion of this contract it is possible that the contractor could be re-engaged – under a separate contract – to work with MNO staff to implement the Consultation Plan through organizing and documenting Community meetings, designing and copywriting communication materials, maintaining online tools or surveys, and collating and reporting on results etc.

3. COMPENSATION

Terms and timelines for payment will be specified in the finalized retainer and contract for services.

4. PROPOSAL RESPONSE GUIDELINES

To ensure a proposal is considered for evaluation it must include all the information requested and be presented in the order described below:

4.1 Cover Letter

The Cover Letter must:

- Clearly reference the project title and number of the RFP;
- Be dated and signed by a person authorized to negotiate, make commitments, and provide any clarifications with respect to the proposal on behalf of the bidding contractor;
- Include a statement indicating your understanding of the proposed project and requirements;
- Highlight relevant experience and qualifications;
- Indicate your organization’s capacity to complete the project including: project organization and project management plans.

4.2 Experience and Qualifications

The proposal must outline and include an overview of the following:

- Experience with complex and multi-pronged community engagements, outreach activities, and consultations especially on a province-wide scale;
- Experience working with Indigenous governments and/or service agencies;
- Experience working with Métis governments and/or service agencies;
- Experience with in-person and online engagement in an Indigenous context;
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• Experience with Indigenous self-governance, constitution building, or other governance education consultations;

• Ability to integrate Indigenous values into consultation and education approaches.

It would be an asset to include an overview of your organization’s:

• Experience developing communications materials related to Indigenous governance or similar projects;

• Experience delivering Indigenous community education and consultation sessions and facilitating feedback and engagement from a community;

• Ability to gather and report on feedback from engagement and consultation sessions and processes;

• Capacity to work with the MNO Communications Branch to design, create content for, and implement a multi-media outreach strategy (including website, social media, online survey, telephone outreach, email outreach, and other communications aspects etc.);

• Capacity to manage a Communications Strategy roll out;

• Proficiency and bilingualism in both English and French.

4.3 Innovation

Provide details of any possible innovative ideas, suggestions, or opportunities for improvement that would enhance the project, process, or required outcomes indicated within this RFP.

4.4 Costs and Charges (Budget)

Provide an all-inclusive fixed-cost quotation in Canadian funds for the project. Please include a statement of hourly rates and suggested project timeline.

4.5 References

Please supply three relevant references including the name, title, telephone number, and email address of the contact person.

5. SUBMISSION

As a potential supplier for these professional services you are invited to submit a proposal in accordance with the terms and conditions detailed in this document to the following contact:

MNO Self-Government Community Consultation – RFP 2020-01
66 Slater Street, Suite 1100
Ottawa, ON, K1P 5H1
Email: PalwashaA@metisnation.org
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Closing date and time: 11:59 pm (Eastern time) February 18, 2020 – via email. Proposals received after the closing date and time will not be considered.

6. PROJECT SCHEDULE

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<td>Closing Date</td>
<td>February 18, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation of Consultation Plan</td>
<td>April 1, 2020</td>
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7. SELECTION PROCESS

Upon closing, all proposals will be reviewed for completeness. Only completed proposals will be brought forward for further consideration and final decision.

8. PERIOD OF AGREEMENT

The term of any contractual agreement will be from the date of the award as defined in the retainer agreement.

9. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

9.1. The MNO will not be responsible for any costs incurred by a contractor in preparing and submitting proposals and/or attending interviews. The MNO accepts no liability of any kind to a contractor prior to the signing of a contract.

9.2. Submission of a proposal shall not obligate, nor should it be construed as obligating the MNO to accept any such proposal or to proceed further with the project. The MNO may, in their sole discretion, elect not to proceed with the project, and may elect not to accept any or all proposals for any reason.

9.3. Contractors may amend or withdraw their proposals prior to the closing date and time specified in the RFP by way of written notice.

9.4. The contractor must identify any information in its proposal that it considers to be confidential or proprietary.

9.5. All proposals and accompanying documentation received under this competition will become the property of the MNO and will not be returned.
9.6. The MNO reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all proposals.

9.7. The MNO reserves the right to cancel and/or re-issue this RFP at any time for any reason without penalty.

9.8. The contractor’s proposal shall form part of the contractual agreement by attachment and will be incorporated by reference.