Métis Nation of Ontario/Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Amendment to July 2004 Points of Agreement on Métis Harvesting

On July 7, 2004, the then Minister of Natural Resources for Ontario and the President of the Métis Nation of Ontario ("MNO") reached Points of Agreement for an Interim Harvesting Agreement (the "Agreement"). The Agreement states,

- 1. MNO and MNR agree that MNO will issue a maximum of 1250 Harvester's Cards for this year. The number of 1250 is for this year only. A mutually agreeable process for a change in this number will be developed subject to research and evaluation of the Harvesters Card system.
- 2. The MNR will apply the *Interim Enforcement Policy* (IEP) to those valid Harvesters Card holders who are harvesting food, within their traditional territories and pursuant to the safety and conservation values set out in the IEP in a manner which is identical with its application to First Nations.
- 3. This Interim Agreement will be for two years with the intention that it will be extended by mutual consent until a final agreement is in place.
- 4. Both sides agree that an independent evaluation of the MNO Harvesters Card system will be performed based on mutually agreeable terms of reference.

The Agreement remains in place today through the mutual consent of the MNO and the Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry ("MNRF");

Both the MNRF and the MNO remain committed to implementing the Agreement and working together in order to achieve the mutual goals of conservation and safety in harvesting and resource management in Ontario;

On September 2nd, 2015, the MNRF Minister and MNO President met and jointly agreed to amend the Agreement in order to allow the MNO to issue an additional 200 Harvester's Cards under the Agreement (i.e., a maximum of 1450 Harvester's Cards in total), subject to the following terms and conditions being met:

- 1. MNO will number the additional Harvester's Cards from number 1251 onward to a maximum of 1450. The MNO will apprise MNRF of when and in what MNO-identified traditional territories these additional 200 Harvester's Cards have been issued through regular bi-monthly reporting starting at the end of October 2015 in order to facilitate smooth field operations.
- 2. In the near term, and until the parties have completed the independent evaluation of the MNO Harvester's Card system and have time to establish and plan for the implementation of a longer-term harvesting agreement, none of the additional 200 Harvester's Card will be issued in the MNO-identified Mattawa/Nipissing or Ottawa River traditional territories. This applies only in relation to the additional 200 Harvester's Cards.
- 3. The MNO will share data on the Métis harvest with MNRF based on existing surveys that were funded by Canada and previously provided to MNRF. Subject to mutually agreeable terms of reference for a more comprehensive Métis harvest survey and funding being available for the MNO to undertake such a survey, the MNO will share harvest data with MNRF, including but not limited to seasons, geography and species; in order to assist in effective natural resource management and planning processes.

4. The MNRF and MNO agree to work to expedite the completion of the independent review of the MNO Harvester Card system contemplated in the Agreement, to the satisfaction of both parties, and will begin discussions on arriving at a longer-term agreement on Métis harvesting, which will be tied to the results of the independent review and will prioritize conservation and sustainable natural resources management.

The MNRF will provide information to the MNO in relation to Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) facing moose harvesting pressures. Consistent with the MNO's recognition that with rights come responsibilities for the protection of the resource, MNO will provide this information to Harvester's Card holders and encourage them to avoid these areas where possible or consider harvesting of other species in these WMUs.

All other terms of the Agreement remain the same.

September 30, 2015