

**Ministry of Natural
Resources**

Office of the Minister

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September 28, 2010

Mr. Gary Lipinski
President
Métis Nation of Ontario
500 Old St. Patrick Street, Unit 3
Ottawa ON K1N 9G4

Dear Mr. Lipinski:

It was a pleasure meeting you and your staff on September 22, 2010. I believe our discussion has once again underscored the mutual importance of the relationship between the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), and our commitment to working together on items of shared interest.

Further to our meeting, I am pleased to confirm that the Four Point Harvesting Agreement that was reached in July 2004 remains in place today by the mutual consent of the MNR and MNO.

With respect to the specific elements of the Four Point Agreement, MNR will continue to honour 1250 MNO harvesting certificates that have been issued to MNO citizens, and will apply the Interim Enforcement Policy to harvesting certificate holders, which will allow for continued sustainable harvest through the use of the harvesting certificates.

However, as you know, our shared commitments extend equally to moving forward with necessary historic research and the requirement for an independent registry review. I trust you will agree that this work underlies the commitments made in that original agreement, and that without that work, the Ministry will need to revisit and re-evaluate our agreement.

I want to acknowledge the items you raised regarding recent correspondence from MNR to MNO, which only emphasizes the need to move forward in the very near term to assemble documentation to inform discussions outside of the community of Sault Ste. Marie. I am confident that, by working together, we can prevent further misunderstanding and develop mutually beneficial policies. To this end, I would like to formally invite your input on both our draft Trapline Allocation policy and Commercial Fishing policy, both of which are now available on the Environmental Registry at Ontario.ca/ebr. In response to your concerns regarding the short times for responding, I have ensured that the Commercial Fishing policy comment period has been extended and will be posted for comment for 60 days.

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In addition to these policies, I have received your letter of September 28, and look forward to reviewing it with my officials and providing a response to the issues you raised in a separate letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Jeffrey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L" and "J".

Linda Jeffrey
Minister of Natural Resources