



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON MÉTIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is made in duplicate this 20th day of June, 2011.

BETWEEN

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, in right of the Province of Ontario, as represented by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs (hereinafter referred to as “Ontario”)

AND

THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO (hereinafter referred to as “the MNO”)

(hereinafter the “Parties”)

WHEREAS on November 17th, 2008, Ontario and MNO executed a Framework Agreement to strengthen the relationship between Ontario and the MNO, enhance the capacity of the MNO, recognize the distinct identity and culture of the Métis people, and, improve the quality of life of Métis children, families and communities in the province;

AND WHEREAS the Framework Agreement included the commitments that the MNO and Ontario would work together to “increase economic opportunities for Métis people and enhance the individual and community well-being of Métis” and “develop the capacity of Métis communities, individuals and businesses to participate in economic opportunities”;

AND WHEREAS in furtherance of these commitments the MNO developed a Métis Economic Development Strategy, entitled, *An Agenda for Self-Reliance and Sustainability*, based on consultations with Métis from across the province with financial support from Ontario and the Federal Government;

AND WHEREAS one of the key recommendations in the MNO Economic Development Strategy was to support Métis entrepreneurs and businesses in Ontario through the creation of an independent Métis economic development corporation that would ultimately provide business planning, start up and expansion supports as well as equity, loans and capital contributions to Métis businesses;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Justice Linden, in his Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry released on May 31, 2007, recommended that Ontario continue to work with Aboriginal organizations in the province to develop resource sharing initiatives;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government has announced a new Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development which includes commitments to work with Aboriginal groups and provincial governments in order to strengthen Aboriginal entrepreneurship as well as forge new and effective partnerships to maximize Aboriginal economic development opportunities;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Voyageur Development Fund Inc. (“MVDF”) has been established to promote and stimulate Métis economic development throughout Ontario by accessing and leveraging financial resources from various levels of government and the private sector in order to make strategic investments in Métis entrepreneurs and Métis businesses throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS Ontario has entered into a multi-year funding agreement with the MVDF in order to support increased Métis economic participation in the energy, forestry, mining and resource sectors in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS Ontario and MNO want to continue to work together to promote Métis economic development in Ontario, leverage additional funding from the Federal Government and the private sector to support the MVDF, and, jointly evaluate the effectiveness of the MVDF in the future;

NOW THEREFORE Ontario and the MNO agree as follows:

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to build on the commitments in the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement and support the implementation of the MNO Economic Development Strategy through pursuing collaborative efforts between the MNO and Ontario.

2.0 ACTIONS

In order to advance the purpose of this MOU, the Parties agree to the following:

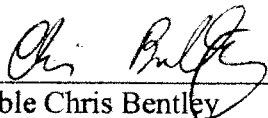
- 2.1 As a part of the regular meetings between the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the MNO President committed to in the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, the topics of Métis economic development and the MVDF will be discussed.
- 2.2 Work together to assist MVDF in securing and leveraging additional funding from the Federal Government as well as potential private sector contributors; and

2.3 Jointly evaluate the MVDF in its fourth (2014/2015) and ninth (2019/2020) years of operation. These evaluations will include Ontario, MNO and MVDF meeting six months prior to beginning of the fiscal years in which the evaluations will undertaken in order to develop mutually agreeable terms of reference for a third party consultant to conduct an independent evaluation. These evaluations will assess MVDF's governance, accountability, measurable results and its ability to become self-sustaining. Final evaluation reports, which will include recommendations from the third party consultant, will be provided to Ontario, MNO and MVDF. Following the receipt of the evaluations, the Parties will meet to determine if any changes are required to the MVDF's multi-year funding agreement with Ontario in order to achieve the fund's self-sufficiency and long-term needs. All of the costs associated with these evaluations will be borne by MVDF through its multi-year funding agreement with Ontario.

3.0 GENERAL

- 3.1 The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs shall discuss its capacity support for the MNO to undertake the actions set out in this MOU as a part of its annual Framework Agreement workplan and budget.
- 3.2 This MOU may be amended by the mutual written agreement of the Parties.
- 3.3 This MOU shall remain in place until March 31, 2021 unless extended by mutual written agreement of the Parties or terminated by one of the Parties providing 90 days written notice to the other party.
- 3.4 This MOU is not a legally binding contract.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF this MOU has been executed as of the date written above.



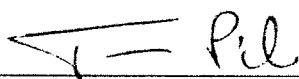
 Honourable Chris Bentley
 Minister of Aboriginal Affairs



 Witness



 Gary Lipinski
 President
 Métis Nation of Ontario



 Witness