

The Metis Nation of Ontario

Request for Abbreviated Proposal for Consulting Services for Technical Support in Project Consultation

1.1. 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 different traditional territories across the province of Ontario.

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

These contemporary Métis communities have land, harvesting, cultural, spiritual and economic rights and interests throughout their traditional territories, which co-exist with the rights and interests of other Aboriginal groups throughout the province. 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 province of Ontario, the MNO, through its governance structures at the local and regional levels, has been working with government and industry to ensure the Métis communities in the different regions are meaningfully consulted and accommodated on projects and developments occurring in their region.

In particular, as a part of the MNO's consultation framework, Regional Consultation Committees (the "Committees") have been created to liaise with government and proponents on behalf of the regional rights-bearing Métis community. These Committees consist of the elected leadership of the MNO Community Councils in the region as well as the regionally elected Métis leadership. For more information on these Committees and the MNO's consultation framework please visit www.metisnation.org.

The MNO is looking for qualified consultants that can, when required, undertake Métis traditional knowledge studies and technical reviews of impact assessments for various projects across the province (the "Study"). The Study will be used to inform ongoing engagement, consultation, accommodation and monitoring of the proposed or on-going

development projects occurring within Métis traditional lands that have the potential to affect the regional Métis community's rights, interests and way of life.

1.2. Statement of Purpose

The Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is calling for Abbreviated Proposals from consulting firms and individual expert practitioners to establish Standing Offer Agreements to provide “as and when required” professional technical services to the MNO's Land, Resources and Consultation Branch located at various MNO offices throughout Ontario. Law firms with expertise in Metis rights, aboriginal business structuring or panel witness preparation experience are also invited to submit an abbreviated proposal.

The objective of this Request for Abbreviated Proposals (RFAP) is to select firms and/or individual experts who will each sign a Standing Offer Agreement (SOA) with the MNO to provide services on “as and when required” basis, anywhere within Ontario, for a period of two (2) years from the date of award. If mutually agreeable between each consultant and the MNO, the SOAs may each be extended for up to one (1) additional year period.

1.3. Scope of Work

The consultant will need to work closely with both the Committee and the MNO Lands, Resources & Consultations branch on a range of current and potential projects related to the fields of expertise listed below.

The successful applicant will have:

- Expertise and ability to provide any, all, or a combination of the required technical support services enlisted below:
 - Socio-economics
 - Aquatic Biology
 - Toxicology
 - Traditional Knowledge Studies
 - Environmental Assessment Panel Support
 - Endangered Species
 - Facilitation of Environmental meetings and Conferences
 - Database and Spatial Analysis
 - Cumulative Environmental Assessment
 - Laws- Eperience in Duty to Consult and Accommodate Legislation, Metis Rights, Aboriginal Business Structuring, Panel Witness Preparation
 - Impact assessments

- Experience in developing and implementing sound methodologies for Aboriginal impact assessments;
- 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 impact assessments;
- Knowledge of the Métis in Ontario and Métis way of life related issues;
- Strong communication and organizational skills and the ability to meet timelines

1.4. Deliverables

Invitees are requested to submit abbreviated proposals in accordance with the guidelines laid out in section **1.5 Requirements for Proposal Preparation**. Standardization of the RFAP will assist the MNO's selection committee to make a fair decision.

1.5. Requirements for Proposal Preparation

The abbreviated proposals are to be submitted in adherence to below guidelines. If your proposal fails to follow the required format, your proposal may be disqualified from consideration.

1. The abbreviated proposal will include company details to show how your firm can supply one or more of the 10 elements enlisted under section **1.2 Scope of work**. Maximum two pages. For multi-disciplinary firms this section can be no longer than four pages.
2. Experience in the study areas requested- A maximum of two pages can be submitted for each area. It may include a list of publications.
3. Experience in working with Métis - Maximum two pages.
4. Team member credentials- This may include the CV's &/or Bio's for up to five team members or for the case of large multi-disciplinary firms- professional teams of up to ten members are acceptable.
5. Charge out price- For this the MNO call will be relevant for two years. This may vary depending on the team member type or credentials on offer.
6. The abbreviated proposal will delineate activities and fees associated with each of the different services that the firm/expert is proposing to undertake from amongst the services enlisted under section **1.2 Scope of work**. For firms/professionals interested in providing a package discount please include the details after the required fee breakdown.

1.6. Term of Contract

The Standing Offer Agreements, as mentioned earlier, are to be valid for a period of two (2) years from the date of award. If mutually agreeable between each consultant and the MNO, the SOAs may each be extended for up to one (1) additional year period.

1.7. Evaluation and Award Process

Information provided by the Proponents will be evaluated using the established criteria in the Request for Technical proposal document. The criteria relate to achievements and experience, technical and managerial expertise, and consultation coordination.

The highest ranking firms/ experts selected through the evaluation process, including a factor for the price element, will be invited to negotiate a standing offer agreement with the MNO.

1.8. Process Schedule

Firms that consider themselves qualified to provide any, all or some of the services are invited to submit their Technical Proposals in adherence with the guidelines enlsted under section **1.3 Deliverables**. The below table enlists the various deadlines for the proposal process.

Action	Deadline (at 4:30 pm EST)
Submission of Questions	January 25 th 2013
Submission of Abbreviated Proposal	Febraury 1 st 2013

1.9. Points of contact for future correspondence

Please submit a digital proposal by February 1st, 2013 at 4:30 pm (EST) to the email address: DeviS@metisnation.org

For questions regarding the RFAP as well as to obtain the contract award results please contact:

Devi Shantilal
Manager | Lands, Resources and Consultation
The Métis Nation of Ontario
Tel: (416)-977-9881 ext. 102
Fax: (416)-977-9911
Cell: (416)- 433-1315
DeviS@metisnation.org