



CHIEFS OF ONTARIO AND MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO POLITICAL PROTOCOL

This Protocol is effective from the 16th day of November, 2004.

BETWEEN:

The Métis Nation of Ontario ("MNO")

-AND-

The Chiefs of Ontario ("COO")

WHEREAS First Nation and Métis peoples within Ontario have a history of respecting and recognizing each others interests, as well as, working in partnership and cooperation, as neighbors and relations, in support of each others interests and aspirations;

AND WHEREAS the COO represents the interests of First Nation peoples within Ontario pursuant to the mandates and direction provided from the leadership of First Nations across Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the MNO represents the interests of the Métis Nation within Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the COO and the MNO recognize each others respective mandates to represent the interests of the Ontario First Nations and the Metis Nation within Ontario;

AND WHEREAS over the past few years the COO and the MNO have built a relationship through sharing, information exchange, on-going dialogue and respect and recognition for each others interests;

AND WHEREAS the COO and the MNO desire to build upon this relationship by affirming mutual respect, recognition and support for the respective rights, interests and aspirations of First Nations and the Métis Nation and establishing a formal, on-going political process;

THEREFORE in the spirit of continued partnership and cooperation, the COO and the MNO agree to the following:

1. Purpose of the Protocol

- 1.1 The purpose of this Protocol is:
- i) to affirm mutual respect, recognition and support for the respective rights, interests and aspirations of First Nations and the Métis Nation within Ontario;
 - ii) to facilitate government-to-government relationships between Ontario

First Nations and the Métis Nation within Ontario; and

- iii) to establish an on-going political process between the COO and the MNO in order to strengthen the cooperative working relationship between First Nations and the Métis Nation on issues of mutual concern.

2. Guiding Principles of the Protocol

- 2.1 The Parties agree that the implementation of this Protocol shall be guided by:
- i) mutual respect, recognition and support for the respective rights of First Nations and the Métis Nation;
 - ii) recognition of government-to-government relationships between First Nations and the Métis Nation; and
 - iii) transparent and good faith intentions and discussions.

3. On-Going Process

3.1 The Parties agree to establish a process of regular meetings to achieve the purpose of this Protocol and, where possible, develop common understandings and/or strategies on identified issues of mutual concern or priority.

3.2 The Parties agree that the Regional Chief of the COO and the President of the MNO will meet twice a year.

3.3 The Parties agree that the Political Confederacy of the COO and the Provisional Council of the MNO will meet once a year.

3.4 The COO and the MNO will collaborate in determining meeting dates, length and location.

3.5 Prior to these meetings, designated officials from the COO and MNO will meet to develop mutually agreed to agendas for these scheduled meeting.

3.6 Each Party agrees to take individual responsibility for decisions made at the leadership meetings and required followed up.

3.8 The Parties may establish joint working groups of officials and/or experts who will meet to undertake follow up flowing from the leadership meetings.

3.9 This process to not preclude additional meetings between the COO and MNO or bilateral meetings or access between the leadership of Ontario First Nations or the Métis Nation within Ontario.

3.10 To implement this process, the COO and MNO will assign appropriate resources.

4. General

4.1 This Protocol will come into force on the date of signing and shall stay in force until amended by the Parties pursuant to section 4.2 or either Party terminates the Protocol pursuant to section 4.2.

4.2 This Protocol may be reviewed and revised in recognition of the evolving relationship between the COO and the MNO. It can only be amended in writing with the consent of the Parties.

4.3 This Protocol may be terminated by either Party providing written notice to the other Party of their intention to terminate the Protocol within thirty (30) days.

4.4 This Protocol does not create, define, limit, prejudice, abrogate or derogate from any of the rights, interests or jurisdiction of the COO, the Political Confederacy, individual First Nations, Métis communities or the Métis Nation.

4.5 For greater certainty, this Protocol does not limit or affect the mandate or ability of either Party to pursue their respective political mandates provided by First Nations or the Métis Nation.

4.6 The Parties agree that this Protocol in not judiciable in a court of law and cannot be used in any present or future litigation in a court of law.

Signed this 16th day of November, 2004.

Tony Belcourt
President - Métis Nation of Ontario

Witness

Charles Fox
Regional Chief - Chiefs of Ontario

Witness