



GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO – MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made in duplicate this 17th day of November, 2008.

BETWEEN

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

AND

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

WHEREAS a Métis people emerged in west central North America with their own language (Michif), culture, traditions and way of life;

AND WHEREAS these Métis people collectively refer to themselves as, and, are referred to by others as, the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS Ontario recognizes and respects the unique history, identity, customs, practices, traditions and rights of Métis communities in the province;

AND WHEREAS Ontario is committed to recognizing the Métis and enhancing their survival as distinctive communities;

AND WHEREAS the MNO was created to represent and advocate on behalf of its citizens with respect to their rights, interests and aspirations;

AND WHEREAS the MNO maintains a centralized registry of citizens who have applied for and have been accepted by MNO as citizens of MNO;

AND WHEREAS the MNO represents its citizens through its structures and institutions, including, the Provisional Council of the MNO, MNO Chartered Community Councils and the MNO Annual General Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Ontario and the MNO have engaged in an effective and productive bilateral process since 2000, as a part of Ontario’s *New Approach to Aboriginal Affairs*;

AND WHEREAS Ontario and the MNO want to work together to build upon their existing bilateral process, strengthen the relationship between Ontario and MNO's citizens, 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 section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* recognizes and affirms the existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada;

AND WHEREAS section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* provides that the Aboriginal peoples of Canada includes Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada;

AND WHEREAS in 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada, in *R. v. Powley*, held that members of the Métis community in and around Sault Ste. Marie have an Aboriginal right to hunt for food under s. 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

AND WHEREAS Ontario and the MNO are committed to implementing the *Powley* decision;

AND WHEREAS on April 8th, 2008, the Ontario Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and MNO President committed to working together to develop a mutually agreeable Framework Agreement;

NOW THEREFORE Ontario and the MNO agree as follows:

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Framework Agreement is to promote and facilitate the recognition and advancement of Métis people in Ontario by providing a framework for the Parties to work together in order to develop, coordinate and implement mutually acceptable measures to: strengthen the relationship between Ontario and the MNO; support the MNO's structure, institutions and administration; improve the well-being of Métis children, families and communities; jointly protect and promote the distinct culture, identity and heritage of the Métis people in Ontario; and, recognize and respect Métis rights, as a means of achieving reconciliation between the Crown and the Métis people.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

The Parties agree to working on the following objectives:

- 2.1 Strengthen the MNO's structures, operational capacity and financial management. In support of this objective, the Parties agree to:
 - negotiate a mutually agreeable multi-year arrangement to provide core operational funding to the MNO in order to

support its administration, financial management and overall organizational capacity,

- discuss supports for and investments in the MNO's registry subject to an independent review based on mutually agreed terms of reference,
- explore options for the legislative recognition of the MNO and its Chartered Community Councils, and
- other initiatives mutually agreed to by the Parties.

2.2 Recognize and preserve the distinct history, identity and culture of the Métis people and their contributions to Ontario. In support of this goal, the Parties agree to:

- discuss initiatives and opportunities to recognize the historic and ongoing contributions of the Métis in the province,
- identify activities which promote cross-cultural awareness and understanding among the Métis and other Ontarians,
- explore initiatives to protect and preserve the Michif language in Ontario,
- develop a self-sufficiency plan for the Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission, and
- other initiatives mutually agreed to by the Parties.

2.3 Increase economic opportunities for Métis people and enhance the individual and community well-being of Métis. In support of this goal, the Parties recognize the need to:

- develop the capacity of Métis communities, individuals and businesses to participate in economic opportunities,
- improve education attainment levels, employment opportunities and to support adequate and appropriate training,
- improve the health and well-being of Métis people,
- improve housing conditions and access to housing,
- improve access to justice and increase Métis access to restorative justice measures,
- improve the access that Métis people have to provincial services, including, health, education and social supports to close the gap in the quality of life that now exists between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians,
- improve effective participation in the development of provincial policies which significantly affect Métis people,
- enhance multi-departmental coordination within the Government of Ontario aimed at addressing the socio-economic needs of Métis people, and
- other initiatives mutually agreed to by the Parties.

2.4 Facilitate the recognition of Métis rights in Ontario, as a part of the reconciliation process. In support of this goal, Ontario and the MNO agree to:

- discuss collaborative initiatives for ensuring the fulfillment of the Crown's duty to consult, and, where appropriate, accommodate Métis rights in the province,
- undertake where appropriate collaborative historic and contemporary research on Métis communities in Ontario, and
- pursue discussions with the Government of Canada on Métis harvesting rights and the Crown's consultation duties, where appropriate, and
- other initiatives mutually agreed to by the Parties.

3.0 STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

3.1 Political Meetings and Coordinating Committee

- The Premier of Ontario and the MNO President will meet annually to discuss mutually agreeable subject matters and the progress achieved through the Framework Agreement.
- The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the MNO President will meet, at a minimum, twice annually, in order to assess the progress being made through the Framework Agreement.
- Ontario and the MNO will each appoint representatives to a Coordinating Committee to oversee and manage the Framework Agreement's implementation.

3.2 Engaging the Government of Canada

- Ontario and the MNO agree to continue to engage the Government of Canada through the Ontario-Canada-MNO tripartite process as well as on other mutually agreed to trilateral initiatives.

3.3 MNO Strategic Plan

- The MNO will develop a 5 year strategic plan which will include strategies to achieve the goals and objectives of this Framework Agreement.
- The MNO will update its strategic plan annually and will provide copies to the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs as well as to other relevant Government of Ontario ministries and agencies.
- Taking into account federal contributions, Ontario will provide support to the MNO for its 5 year strategic plan development as well as the annual updates to the plan.

3.4 Promoting Joint Planning, Collaboration and Action

- The MNO and Ontario Ministries, willing to participate in the Ontario-MNO Framework Agreement process, will develop bilateral processes and mutually agreeable sectoral workplans which provide for:
 - The identification of interests common to the Parties;
 - The MNO's input into the development of policy and the delivery of programs and services, which significantly affect Métis people; and
 - The pursuit of strategies and actions which increase the cultural, economic and social well-being of the Métis people in Ontario.
- Each Ontario Ministry, willing to participate in the Ontario-MNO Framework Agreement process, may negotiate a mutually agreeable sectoral workplan with the MNO.

3.5 Capacity Support

- The Parties will identify the capacity requirements necessary to develop and implement the actions referred to in paragraphs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 of this Framework Agreement.

4.0 ANNUAL REVIEW

- 4.1 A review of the operation of this Framework Agreement will be conducted annually by the Coordinating Committee.
- 4.2 The purpose of the review is to identify successes and challenges with respect to the operation of the Framework Agreement.
- 4.3 Based on this review, the Parties will jointly develop and implement strategies designed to address the challenges.

5.0 EVALUATION

- 5.1 The Parties will develop mutually agreeable terms of reference for the evaluation of the Framework Agreement.
- 5.2 Based on these terms of reference, an independent evaluation of the Framework Agreement will be conducted in 2012.

6.0 FUNDING

- 6.1 The MNO and other Government of Ontario Ministries, departments and agencies may, if they so agree, enter into additional funding arrangements to support specific, mutually agreed objectives that may be identified in

the strategic plan of the MNO or by specific Government of Ontario Ministries, departments and agencies.

- 6.2 The Parties agree to annually review the adequacy of the funding which supports the goal and strategies of the Framework Agreement.
- 6.3 An annual contribution towards the Ontario-MNO bilateral process and the core funding of the operations of the MNO will be provided by the Government of Ontario.
- 6.4 Best efforts will be made for multi-year contribution agreements to be achieved.
- 6.5 All funding arrangements contemplated under this Framework Agreement are subject to appropriations by the Ontario Legislative Assembly, provincial policies and funding criteria.

7.0 EXISTING AND FUTURE FUNDING AGREEMENTS

- 7.1 Government of Ontario Ministries, departments and agencies with existing funding relationships with the MNO will be encouraged to ensure that renewals or changes will be consistent with the objectives of this Framework Agreement.
- 7.2 Nothing in this Framework Agreement shall be construed so as to limit or restrict access by the MNO to other sources of potential provincial support and funding consistent with applicable policies and program and services criteria.

8.0 NON-DEROGATION

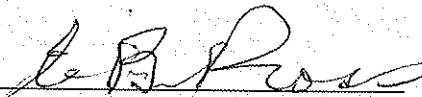
- 8.1 Nothing in this Framework Agreement affects, abrogates or derogates from, or recognizes, affirms or creates any rights of Métis people or Métis communities in Ontario.
- 8.2 Nothing in this Framework Agreement shall be construed so as to limit the responsibilities, authorities and jurisdiction of Ontario Ministries, departments and agencies in relation to their respective mandates.
- 8.3 The language and terms employed in this Framework Agreement are not intended to have legal meaning or affect or connote legal positions of either the MNO or Ontario.

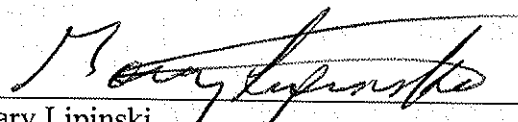
9.0 GENERAL

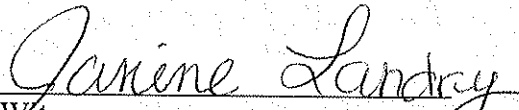
- 9.1 Subject to paragraph 9.5, the term of this Framework Agreement shall be from November 17, 2008 to November 17, 2013.
- 9.2 The progress evaluation referred to in section 5 of this Framework Agreement will provide one of the bases to determine whether or not the Framework Agreement should be renewed.
- 9.3 This Framework Agreement may be amended from time-to-time by the mutual written consent of the Parties.
- 9.4 This Framework Agreement is not a legally binding contract.
- 9.5 Either Party may terminate this Framework Agreement by providing 90 days written notice to the other party.

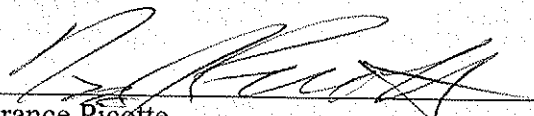
IN WITNESS WHEREOF this Framework Agreement has been executed as of the date first written above.

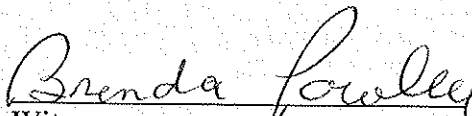

 Honourable Brad Duguid
 Minister of Aboriginal Affairs


 Witness


 Gary Lipinski
 President
 Métis Nation of Ontario


 Witness


 France Picotte
 Chair
 Métis Nation of Ontario


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