

**MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA – GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA
DISCUSSIONS ON A MÉTIS CONSULTATION POLICY IN ALBERTA**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND:

The Government of Alberta (Alberta) and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) have a formal relationship under the Alberta/MNA Framework Agreement for the purpose of joint planning, collaborative policy development, joint action, and shared responsibility and accountability.

Alberta has a *Policy on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management* and is in the process of developing a similar policy for Métis Settlements.

Currently, Alberta does not have a consultation policy that address consultation related issues for non-settlement Métis communities. In the absence of an Alberta Policy, in 2010 MNA Members unanimously approved an MNA consultation policy titled “Policy Guidelines Regarding the Duty to Consult and Accommodate Métis Aboriginal Rights and Interests in Alberta”.

The Minister of Alberta Aboriginal Relations has indicated to the President of the MNA that Alberta is interested in entering into a dialogue with the MNA to address consultation-related issues. The intended outcome of this dialogue is the development of main elements of a potential Métis Consultation Policy for non-settlement Métis communities in Alberta.

BROAD OBJECTIVE:

To develop the main elements of a potential province-wide consultation policy for non-settlement Métis communities)MNA.

The intentions of the MNA and Alberta in these discussions are to identify the issues and main elements of a potential Alberta-MNA Métis Consultation Policy MNA that will:

- Meet the respective obligations of the parties with respect to consultation;
- Increase certainty for Alberta, the MNA and industry proponents;
- Be practical and workable for both parties and stakeholders;
- Be acceptable to both Alberta and the MNA, with the understanding that the proposed Policy will be Alberta’s Policy.

PROCESS PRINCIPLES:

During the discussions on consultation, the parties undertake to conduct themselves in accordance with the following principles:

- Entering into discussions in good faith towards mutually beneficial outcomes;
- Demonstrating honesty and openness in confronting issues on a without prejudice basis;
- Showing mutual respect and maintaining a positive climate for discussions;
- Sharing information, which is reasonably required, for use limited to the purposes of the discussions and development of a Consultation Policy for Métis in Alberta.

Both Alberta and the MNA agree to discuss Métis consultation in Alberta in an open and transparent manner that reflects the interests of both parties as it relates to how meaningful consultation for Métis in Alberta will occur.

PROCESS/SCOPE:

Broadly speaking, the dialogue will be concentrated on four key items:

- 1.) Identification of available information relevant to non-Settlement Métis communities' land use (e-scan);
 - a. Métis Nation of Alberta
 - b. Government of Alberta
- 2.) Issues identification;
 - a. Métis Nation of Alberta
 - b. Government of Alberta
- 3.) Interests identification in relation to issues;
 - a. Métis Nation of Alberta
 - b. Government of Alberta
- 4.) Draft elements of a potential Policy.

PROCESS STRUCTURE

Working Committee

Role of the Committee

Working committee, not a decision making body

Committee composition

Initial dialogue

Expanded dialogue

Reporting structure (to respective entities)

Métis Nation of Alberta

Government of Alberta

Funding/Capacity

Alberta will provide the MNA with funding to support their ability to engage in these discussions.