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LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

HER MAJESTY IN THE RIGHT OF CANADA

And

HER MAJESTY IN THE RIGHT OF SASKATCHEWAN

And

FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING

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HER MAJESTY IN THE RIGHT OF CANADA

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HER MAJESTY IN THE RIGHT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS

WHEREAS the parties wish to build on the principles in the Protocol Agreement to Establish a Common Table of October 31, 1996, and integrate and co-ordinate inter-governmental activities;

The Parties Agree as Follows:

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The parties are working co-operatively to develop the basis of a new relationship which:
 - i) is consistent with and builds on the treaty relationship;
 - ii) recognizes the jurisdiction and authority of First Nations and the relationship to the jurisdiction and authority of other governments;
 - iii) provides for effective and efficient governance and program delivery; and
 - iv) establishes a new fiscal relationship.
- 1.2 The parties have established the following processes:
 - i) Canada and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations have established an Exploratory Treaty Table facilitated by the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. Saskatchewan is an observer at that table.
 - ii) Canada, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Saskatchewan have established a Common Table of Ministers and the Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to discuss matters of mutual interest and priority.

iii) Pursuant to the Common Table, the parties have agreed to establish:

- Fiscal Relations Table; and
- a Governance Table.

1.3 Each table has developed or is in the process of developing, detailed terms of reference and a work plan for its activities.

1.4 The purpose of this Letter of Understanding is:

- i) to describe how the various tables which the parties have established or are in the process of establishing, will work in a co-ordinated fashion; and
- ii) to deal with related organizational and procedural matters.

2.0 Linkages

2.1 The tables should operate as efficiently as possible, avoid duplication of efforts and inform each other.

2.2 Working out effective and legitimate governance structures is essential to the overall success of the process and will be addressed as a priority. First Nations in Saskatchewan are committed to exercise jurisdiction consistent with the treaty relationship in order to develop laws, programs and services better suited to their needs and values and which can improve the lives of their citizens.

2.3 The work of the Fiscal Relations Table and the Governance Table will be integrated under the direction of the Common Table in accordance with the mandates that the parties receive from time to time.

2.4 The work of each of the Exploratory Treaty Table, the Governance Table and the Fiscal Table will inform the work of each of the other tables when the interests of all three parties are affected.

3.0 Procedures

- 3.1 As provided for in the Protocol Agreement establishing the Common Table, a Committee of Senior Officials will be established and will meet on a regular basis to:
- i) exchange information;
 - ii) act as a co-ordinating mechanism for the overall process and integrate the work of the various tables;
 - iii) identify items which require discussion/decisions by the Common Table of Ministers and the Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations; and
 - iv) act as liaison to the Senior Administrators Committee created further to the Memorandum of Agreement between Canada and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations signed October 31, 1996, to coordinate and facilitate linkages among the Exploratory Treaty Table, the Fiscal Table and the Governance Table.

4.0 Establishment of Mandates

- 4.1 The federal government will seek Cabinet approval for specific mandates as required on individual components and issues. Agreements-in-principle will be referred to Cabinet for approval.
- 4.2 The Saskatchewan government will seek Cabinet approval for integrating the overall process, described herein, and will secure specific mandates as required on individual components and issues. Agreements-in-principle will be referred to Cabinet for approval.
- 4.3 The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations will seek joint Executive Council/Indian Government Commission approval for specific mandates, as required on individual components and issues from the Legislative Assembly. Agreements-in-principle will be referred to the Legislative Assembly and First Nations for ratification by band council resolution.

5.0 Public Education and Information

- 5.1 The parties agree that it will be essential to develop and maintain public support throughout the process. They agree to work co-operatively to develop strategies for educating the public on issues being addressed. Where possible, these efforts will be co-ordinated with the public education initiatives of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

6.0 Other Issues

- 6.1 This Letter of Understanding is not a treaty. It does not create legal obligations and it shall not be used in the interpretation of any other agreement.

Signatures

Signed this 26 day of August, 1998
at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Original signed by Jimmy Myo
Witness

Original signed by Jane Stewart
Her Majesty in the Right of Canada

Original signed by Jimmy Myo
Witness

Original signed by Bernhard H. Wiens
Her Majesty in the Right of Saskatchewan

Original signed by Jimmy Myo
Witness

Original signed by Chief Perry Bellegarde
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations