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**Appendix A to Memorandum of Agreement
Facilitation of the Implementation of Specific Claims Settlements**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON
PARTNERSHIP TO BENEFIT FIRST NATIONS
AND OTHER ABORIGINAL PEOPLES**

Between:

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA as represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (herein "Canada")

And:

THE GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN as represented by the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs (herein "Saskatchewan")

WHEREAS:

- 1) Canada and Saskatchewan recognize that First Nations and other Aboriginal people constitute an important part of Saskatchewan society and, as such, are prepared to undertake initiatives to further the goals and interests of Aboriginal peoples; and
- 2) The settlement and implementation of Specific Claims is one of the primary goals of Indian Bands with Specific Claims and would serve to promote economic development.

The Parties, therefore, have agreed to the following Memorandum of Understanding to demonstrate their commitment to the goal of improving the socio-economic status of First Nations and other Aboriginal peoples in Saskatchewan. This Memorandum of Understanding does not create any legal rights or obligations.

- 1) The Parties have identified the following existing Government of Saskatchewan initiatives which support Aboriginal peoples, as residents of Saskatchewan, in achieving greater access and participation in the economy as well as other initiatives that serve to increase greater understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal cultures, languages and traditions among all citizens of the province. These initiatives, are, of course, subject to the year to year appropriation by the Saskatchewan Legislature where it involves the disbursement of public funds:

- 1) Facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships with industry and government in support of Aboriginal participation in the forestry sector as demonstrated by:
 - Lac La Ronge First Nation, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and Montreal Lake Cree Nation partnership with Weyerhaeuser to expand the Big River Sawmill and construct the new Wapawekka sawmill.
 - Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation partnership with Ainsworth Lumber Ltd. to build new sawmills at Creighton and Deschambault, and a finger jointer plant in Prince Albert.
 - Lac La Ronge First Nation partnership with Zelensky Brothers to build a new sawmill in La Ronge.
 - James Smith Cree Nation with Suntec Forest Products to build a sawmill and value-added remanufacturing facility.
 - Meadow Lake Tribal Council, via NorSask Forest Products partnership with Ainsworth Lumber Ltd., to develop an oriented strand board mill in Meadow Lake.

- 2) Establish a relationship with the First Nations focusing on lands and resources management and policy development as demonstrated by:
 - Support for the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations' initiatives.
 - Support for the First Nations' Fire Protection Program.
 - Support for the Beverly-Qamanirjuaq Caribou Board.
 - Support for the Resource Management Personnel Program.

- 3) Ensure that First Nations and other Aboriginal people continue to receive economic opportunities and jobs and other benefits from the profits and operations of the Regina Casino and the four First Nations-run casinos.

- 4) Provide financial support through loans and grants to northerners, including aboriginal peoples, for new development and expansion of businesses and industries as demonstrated through the Northern Development Fund.

- 5) Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have the opportunity to access and benefit from the *Western Economic Partnership Agreement* that encourages new jobs and supports new economic infrastructure, tourism (including eco-tourism), export and marketing initiatives, and new economic opportunities, including rural, northern and Aboriginal economic development.

- 6) Ensure that Aboriginal peoples participate in, and benefit from, the tourism industry in Saskatchewan as demonstrated by major developments in cultural tourism and eco-tourism. Eco-tourism showcases land and nature, particularly the wilderness experience and living off the land. This initiative is in the early planning stages and involves a northern economic opportunities study.

Cultural tourism showcases Aboriginal traditions, history and culture. A three-year planning and development study has been completed. A number of key projects include:

- Treaty Four Administration Centre and Tourism Complex involving 33 First Nations.
 - Prince Albert Cultural Tourism Partnership involving four First Nations and the City of Prince Albert.
 - Swampy Cree Partnership Coalition involving four First Nations to develop a wilderness lodge.
 - Whitecap Dakota Cultural Village.
 - Key Saulteaux Cultural Camp Partnership involving two provincial parks.
- 7) Ensure that urban Aboriginal peoples can access and benefit from special training and employment opportunities in urban settings under the Labour Market Development Agreement.
 - 8) Ensure representative workforce participation by aboriginal peoples in the provincial economy by improving employment opportunities and representation in private and public sectors as demonstrated through the Aboriginal Employment Development Program.
 - 9) Develop a *Framework for Co-operation* to facilitate discussions with off-reserve Aboriginal peoples aimed at shaping provincial policies, programs and services to meet Aboriginal needs in the area of individual and community well being, education, preparation for the workforce, and participation in the provincial economy.
 - 10) Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have the opportunity for input and participation in the provincial centennial (2005) and observance of the millennium (2000).
 - 11) Continue to assist Canada in settling validated new outstanding Treaty land entitlement claims pursuant to the *Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement* as demonstrated by provincial participation in negotiations involving the Kawacatoose treaty land entitlement claim.
 - 12) Support the concept of the corporate business circle developed by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations which promotes and helps facilitate partnerships between First Nations and the private sector.

- 13) Support and promotion for Aboriginal historic and cultural sites as evidenced by Wanuskewin Heritage Park.
 - 14) Ensure that Aboriginal students and families can access and participate in an expanded Community Schools Program located in urban settings.
 - 15) Ensure that Aboriginal heritage and culture are reflected in the curriculum and instruction as part of the public education system.
 - 16) Ensure that northern communities, including Aboriginal companies, can benefit from government contracting and purchasing of goods and services under the Northern Procurement Policy.
2. The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of the above-mentioned initiatives and supports Saskatchewan's efforts to accomplish them. The Government of Canada is committed to increase its efforts to work in partnership with the Province and Aboriginal peoples and support for existing and new initiatives designed to increase Aboriginal participation in the economy and society of Saskatchewan and Canada.

Signed this [31] day of [March], 2000.

*(Original signed by
Robert Nault)*

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development

*(Original signed by
Jack Hillson)*

Minister of Intergovernmental
and Aboriginal Affairs