

This memorandum of understanding (the "MOU") is entered into this ___ day of February, 2008 between the:

First Nations Technology Council (FNTC)

and the,

Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB)

(hereinafter together referred to as the "Parties").

BACKGROUND

Over the past years, a number of significant Court Decisions have confirmed the legal obligation of Government to consult with First Nations regarding proposed activities in their territories. The Land Referral Process has developed as a result of these decisions. Many of the 203 First Nations communities in British Columbia are not well equipped to efficiently handle the many referrals they receive and have indicated a more coordinated and collaborative approach would significantly help them administer referrals received in their communities.

The First Nations Technology Council (FNTC) has been mandated by BC Chiefs to develop a Technology Plan for BC First Nations that will bring high speed connectivity to all communities. Connectivity is not an end in itself but is a tool to support applications that will benefit the business of communities and improve the lives of First Nations citizens. FNTC has also been mandated by the Chiefs to develop an Integrated Information Management Strategy. Using technology as a tool to manage the land referral process is an example of an information management application that is important to BC First Nations. Key to improving the land referral process is ensuring that all BC First Nations get easy access to resource information currently held by British Columbia, and coordinated by the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB).

The mandate of the ILMB is to provide improved access to Crown natural resources and government-held natural resource information within the Province of British Columbia. With respect to information the ILMB has the government mandate to provide enterprise-wide leadership regarding the integration, management, access and delivery of key provincial geographic information through a shared service model by geographically enabling a range of provincial data, and providing appropriate access to this information to public and private agencies and individuals.

As such, FNTC and ILMB have agreed to work together for the benefit of BC First Nations.

Whereas the Parties have both individual and shared goals, the achievement of which depend on First Nations communities getting access to resource information currently held by British Columbia;

Whereas the Parties acknowledge access to information and to electronic services is fundamental to meaningful participation in cultural and economic development in the 21st century;

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has stated its intention to work collaboratively with BC First Nations to support sustainable economic development in First Nations communities; and;

Whereas BC acknowledges and confirms their commitment to work with First Nations in a government to government relationship to support First Nations land referral capacity building to facilitate an efficient exchange of information between both governments.

Therefore the Parties have agreed to work together in the spirit of true partnership built on mutual respect, open communication and honesty for the benefit of First Nations.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework for an on-going working relationship between FNNTC and ILMB. It will serve as a basis for collaborative action and joint activities in areas of mutual interest, based on principles of cooperation, communication, trust, commitment and shared risk and benefit. This MOU is a voluntary arrangement between the Parties and seeks to define the parameters of the relationship.

Under this MOU, the Parties seek to collaborate in areas of mutual interest to include, but not limited to:

The GeoBC First Nations Portal, commencing with a User Needs Assessment that will form the basis of a project to provide First Nations with easy access to BC resource information.

An Environmental Scan of resource information management activities, and identification of gaps, that will result in a strategic plan to build resource capacity in First Nations communities.

E-Services in the Area of Resource Management to be developed by BC for the benefit of First Nations.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

- a) The Parties acknowledge and respect established provincial and First Nations protocols and will work within their respective mandates to remove impediments to progress by establishing effective working relationships, identifying needs and implementing strategies to achieve better sharing of resource information. ILMB will champion, within government, issues and concerns raised through the First Nations Technology Council that could affect the success of our joint efforts.
- b) The Parties recognize the importance of community engagement and the need to maintain community feedback loops at each stage of planning and implementation.
- c) First Nations recognize their responsibility and leadership role in actively promoting resource capacity building in the communities.
- d) The Parties recognize the importance of engaging the expertise of the private sector in the planning and implementation of a land referral process, where it is appropriate to do so.

3. Procedures

This MOU will be managed by a Steering Committee to be established at the time of execution. That Steering Committee will be guided by the corresponding Terms of Reference agreed upon by the Steering Committee members. The role of the Steering Committee is to foster horizontal and vertical communication and collaboration, set strategic priorities, authorize and support working group initiatives.

An appointed designee from each signatory will serve as the lead representative for that Party on the Steering Committee. Each signatory must appoint a designee within 30 days of signing this MOU.

Consistent with the enabling nature of this MOU the Parties agree to immediately enter into a working relationship to undertake a User Needs Assessment that will form the basis of developing the GeoBC First Nations Portal, and other related activities, including short and long-term activity plans, timelines and cost sharing.

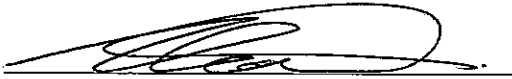
At a minimum, bi monthly meetings will be completed by the Steering Committee to review and assess MOU progress. Measurable benefits will be reported to the signatories. All decisions will be made by consensus.

4. Term

This MOU is intended to cover a three-year period commencing from the date of signing by the Parties.

Either Party to this MOU may request that the MOU be reviewed, replaced or amended by providing one (1) month written notice to the other Party.


SIGNATORIES:



Norm Leech
First Nations Technology Council

2008.03.25

Date



Kevin Jardine
Integrated Land Management Bureau

Date

MARCH 26, 2008