



## **NEXT STEPS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY MÉTIS NATION LAND AND RESOURCE NEGOTIATIONS**

The *Northwest Territory Métis Nation Land and Resources Agreement-in-Principle* (AIP) was signed by all the parties on July 31, 2015. As Canada is obligated to have all federal publications produced in English and French, the AIP will be shared publicly until the AIP is available in French.

Now that the AIP has been ratified, the parties will enter into negotiations to achieve a NWTMN Land and Resources Final Agreement, Implementation Plan, Self-Government Framework Agreement, and compilation of Voters List. These negotiations will take at least two years.

This briefing provides a summary of the next steps in the negotiation of the NWTMN Land and Resources Final Agreement.

### **Negotiation of the Final Agreement**

- The AIP will form the basis of the negotiation of the Final Agreement;
- The AIP has been drafted using Final Agreement language; thus making the final agreement negotiations more efficient;
- In the course of Final Agreement negotiations, provisions may change; however, the cash, land and mineral royalty amounts set out in the AIP is Canada's final offer.

### **Timing to Commence Final Agreement Negotiations**

- The negotiation of the Final Agreement will commence in the fall of 2015.

### **Topics for Negotiation**

- The following is a list of topics to be negotiated based upon the AIP chapters, during the Final Agreement negotiations:
  - Enrollment and eligibility;
  - Wildlife, fish, plant and tree harvesting;
  - Wildlife and fish harvesting compensation;
  - Métis Land;
  - Access to Métis Land;
  - Expropriation of Métis Land;
  - Métis Community Land;
  - Water;
  - Subsurface Resources;



- Wood Buffalo National Park;
- National Parks;
- Protected Areas;
- Heritage Resources;
- Final Payments;
- Economic Measures;
- Taxation;
- Ratification of the Final Agreement;
- Implementation;
- Dispute Resolution; and
- Métis Organizations.

#### **Exercise of Aboriginal Rights until the Effective Date of the Final Agreement**

- Métis Members may continue to exercise their Aboriginal rights.
- The AIP is not legally binding and does not impact the Aboriginal rights of Métis Members.
- The Final Agreement will address the exercise of Aboriginal rights.

#### **Interim Measures Agreement (“IMA”)**

- The IMA provides the NWTMN with the opportunity to pre-screen applications for activities within an area identified as the IMA Area.
- The IMA operations and funding will continue until the Final Agreement, upon which the consultation and funding commitments will be rolled into the Final Agreement and the Implementation Plan.

#### **Land Withdrawal**

- The government has withdrawn:
  - 39,000 sq/km of rural land; and
  - 6.93 sq/km of land within Fort Resolution, Fort Smith and Hay River.
- The land that is withdrawn is not available for any new development or leases. Aboriginal and Métis harvesting can continue on these withdrawn lands.



## Land Selection

- The NWTMN will commence consultations re: Métis Land selection with Métis Members.
- When the Parties resume Main Table negotiations, the NWTMN will enter into land selection negotiations for:
  - 25,194 sq/km of surface rural land mainly within the South Slave region;
  - 1,133 sq/km of subsurface rural land mainly within the South Slave region; and
  - land within Fort Resolution, Fort Smith and Hay River (amount to be determined).

## Self-Government Negotiations

- Self-government negotiations will commence with the negotiation of a Self-Government Framework Agreement.
- The self-government negotiations will occur in two phases.
  - Phase 1: law-making authority over internal matters and Métis Land; and
  - Phase 2: programs and services.
- Consultations with membership and developmental work with respect to the following matters will continue:
  - governance structures;
  - models; and
  - a NWTMN constitution.

## Outstanding Issues

- There are a number of issues that will be addressed during Final Agreement negotiations including the following:
  - whether Government will provide an economic development fund;
  - land selection within Wood Buffalo National Park;
  - whether the Final Agreement will be deemed a land claim agreement.

## Overlap Consultation

- Government will consult with Aboriginal groups with overlapping interests regarding the Final Agreement.
- The NWTMN is committed to having overlap discussions with Aboriginal groups in an effort to achieve overlap agreements.



### **Final Agreement Negotiations**

- The Final Agreement must be ratified by majority vote of all eligible voters (e.g. Métis Members).
- Once ratified by the parties, the benefits will be provided as of the Effective Date (a date after ratification).