

MEMORANDUM OF MUTUAL INTENT

BETWEEN : MITCHIKAMIBIKOK INIK, also known as the Algonquians of Barriere Lake,
As represented by Chief Harry Wawaita, on behalf of his Council (Hereinafter referred to as the "THE COUNCIL")

AND : THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT
As represented by the Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Scott Serson (Hereinafter referred to as the "THE DEPARTMENT")

WHEREAS the parties wish to strengthen their relationship based on the principles of trust, partnership, mutual respect and fairness.

WHEREAS the parties recognize the need to continue to work together in building a strong and unified community.

WHEREAS the parties share concern for the health and well-being of the community of Barriere Lake and share an intention to ensure that the social and economic conditions of the community are improved.

THEREFORE, the parties are committed to work together, in a partnership, within their respective spheres of jurisdiction, towards the realization of the community's vision for the future, as expressed by THE COUNCIL in the attached document entitled "Global Proposal for Rebuilding the Community", as follows:

The Algonquians of Barriere Lake see a bright future based on a vision which incorporates four fundamental orientations:

- (1) *Strength through the retention and enhancement of their culture, language and traditional way of life, augmented by improved training and education geared to needs;*
- (2) *Self-government through adherence to their customary system of government and continued respect for their customs adapted to meet contemporary circumstances;*
- (3) *Community development which includes positive social development, economic self-sufficiency and modern infrastructure; and*
- (4) *A decisive voice in resource management decisions within their traditional territory, guided by the principles of sustainable development and equitable sharing of resources.*

FURTHER, the parties are committed to consider the broad elements contained in the Global Proposal.

THE PARTIES agree on the importance of monitoring and guiding progress toward the achievement of the objects of this Memorandum of Mutual Intent. For that purpose, a Steering Committee, intended to be a modest and effective mechanism, shall be established. The Steering Committee shall be co-chaired by the Chief and the Regional Director General, Quebec Region or their designates. Members of the Steering Committee will be identified by the Co-chairs, up to a maximum of two members each. The Steering Committee shall report regularly to the signatories, on a quarterly basis for the first year.

THE DEPARTMENT agrees to resource the work of the Steering Committee on the basis of a budget to be approved by the Steering Committee.

THE DEPARTMENT shall work with THE COUNCIL in realizing its vision and fulfilling its priority needs by making the best use of current programs, authorities and resources, over a reasonable time frame.

THE COUNCIL shall undertake tangible measures to strengthen its governance capacity in respect of the administration of programs and services and to ensure sound financial and program management accountability to all its members, and THE DEPARTMENT shall cooperate with THE COUNCIL towards these ends.

THE COUNCIL shall search for partnership opportunities with other parties within the public or private sector and THE DEPARTMENT shall promote those opportunities with other partners in order to facilitate such initiatives wherever possible.

THIS MEMORANDUM OF MUTUAL INTENT is based on goodwill and shall not be interpreted as a formal approval of all initiatives identified in the Global Proposal, as those need further discussions and development. Its purpose is not to create legally enforceable rights or obligations.

FOR GREATER CERTAINTY, this Memorandum of Mutual Intent is without prejudice to any Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Algonquians of Barriere Lake and nothing herein shall abrogate or derogate from these rights.

THE COUNCIL

Harry Wawaita
Harry Wawaita
Chief

THE DEPARTMENT

Scott Serson
Scott Serson
Deputy Minister

Signed in: Aspiq Lake

Date: October 21, 2003

Witness: *[Signature]* Witness: *[Signature]*

ANNEX

ALGONQUINS OF BARRIERE LAKE GLOBAL PROPOSAL FOR REBUILDING THE COMMUNITY

1. BACKGROUND

Mitchikanibikok Inik, also known as the Algonquins of Barriere Lake, is a First Nation whose traditional territory is in Northwestern Quebec, in the area of La Verendrye Wildlife Reserve.

The First Nation has a 59-acre reserve at Rapid Lake, which was created in 1961. The reserve serves as a home base and administrative centre for approximately 450 community members who continue to use their traditional lands in the outlying area of the reserve for traditional pursuits.

The community subsists on a "mixed economy" based on traditional activities and government transfers. However, many opportunities exist in the resources and tourism sector, due to the particular position of the Algonquins and the resource richness of their location.

The Algonquins of Barriere Lake possess Aboriginal title which has never been surrendered pursuant to treaty. Rather than advance a land claim, the Algonquins signed the Trilateral Agreement in 1991, with the federal and Quebec governments which encompasses their traditional territory. This should lead to a stronger role for the Algonquins in the management of their traditional territory and facilitate equitable access to resources which would enable them to realize economic opportunities.

2. VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The Algonquins of Barriere Lake see a bright future based on a vision which incorporates four fundamental orientations:

- (1) Strength through the retention and enhancement of their culture, language and traditional way of life, augmented by improved training and education geared to needs;
- (2) Self-government through adherence to their customary system of government and continued respect for their customs adapted to meet contemporary circumstances;
- (3) Community development which includes positive social development, economic self-sufficiency and modern infrastructure; and
- (4) A decisive voice in resource management decisions within their traditional territory, guided by the principles of sustainable development and equitable sharing of resources.

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3. NEEDS, PRIORITIES

In order to meet their vision, the Algonquins require a comprehensive support and development package from the federal government. What follows is a brief description of the elements of this package, together with estimates. It is important to underline that these are only estimates which require detailed costings by experts in the field.

(1) *Housing and Infrastructure*

A positive physical environment is required to encourage emotional and spiritual well-being within the community. The community is in need of housing, due to the inadequacy of the existing stock which causes serious overcrowding. Corresponding improvements must also be made to infrastructure.

Housing (10 new houses/year for 5 years at \$650,000/year)	\$ 3,250,000
Housing Renovations (60 houses over 2 years at \$20,000/house)	1,200,000
Roads (access road and streets to be paved)	350,000
Water, Sewage and Fire Protection (over 2 years)	3,500,000

(2) *Multi-functional Community Centre/Administration Building*

The Algonquins need a community centre they can be proud of, where community activities such as general assemblies, social events and feasts, can take place. The centre could accommodate day care services and activities for Elders, women and youth. Barriere Lake has never had a community centre and one is desperately needed.

The First Nation also needs a modern administration building which is equipped to meet contemporary and increasing communications and business needs. The existing band office is structurally defective and inadequate in any event. Administrative offices are being set up on a temporary basis in a portable unit.

The Building would also serve as office space for policing, child welfare and social services.

Multi-functional Building	1,700,000
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(3) *Education Facilities*

The children of Barriere Lake have gone without for too long. In order to foster education within the community, the children need to be provided with a positive, healthy, up-to-date learning environment. The existing elementary school at Rapid Lake is old and inadequate. It lacks basic modern amenities such as a gymnasium and a library.

The children of Barriere Lake are also entitled to be educated at home near their parents. At the current time, secondary students have to board in Maniwaki or even further away. This creates loneliness, alienation and does not encourage educational development.

Construction of a new Combined Elementary and Secondary School with Gymnasium, a library and Recreational Facilities	3,500,000
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Construction of a remote learning centre located on their traditional territory away from Rapid Lake Reserve to serve as a centre for traditional teachings	\$237,000
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(4) *Community, Social and Educational Development*

Studies indicate serious age-grade deficits amongst school-age children, which must be addressed through major remedial programs (for over 5 years)	1,355,000
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Specialized curriculum development incorporating traditional knowledge using existing research materials developed under the Trilateral process	100,000
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Education and literacy levels in adults reflect the shortcomings in the provision of education programs and services in the past. Adult education and training programs will be required to redress these problems (\$166,000/year for 3 years)	498,000
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A healing process will need to be undertaken, which has as its objective the taking back responsibility for child welfare and community justice. This will require an emphasis on training community members in relevant skills (over 2 years)	627,400
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Governance and Administrative Development

Traditional government structures continue to predominate within Barriere Lake governance and serve as a foundation for emerging structures which are adapted to contemporary circumstances. Seen positively, the events of the past 18 months initiated a process which required the Algonquins to codify their customs and to give thought to changes which were needed to update their system.

The work to codify and update the customs is complete, however resources will be required during a period to two years to establish an administrative system and to train personnel in management and administration.

Joint-Administrator/Trainer and management training (for 2 years) 220,000

Restoration and Consultation Costs

The events of the past 18 months have created setbacks, both for individuals and for the community generally. A major disruption to the community economy occurred with the loss of federal transfers for this period. This was most acutely felt in the loss of wage income in the amount of approximately \$1,500,000. Added to this are consultation costs which were incurred by the Algonquins in the amount of approximately \$600,000, as well as claims for loss of wages by teachers in the amount of \$260,000.

Restoration and Consultation Costs 2,360,000

Trilateral Agreement

The Trilateral Agreement is fundamental to the future of the First Nation. What is contemplated are negotiations with Quebec respecting resources within their traditional territory in a framework which provides for:

- (a) an expanded area of land for the exclusive use of the Algonquins for the community and administration;
- (b) the development of an integrated resource management plan which provides for sharing and co-existence of traditional Algonquin uses with non-Algonquin uses;
- (c) resource revenue sharing arrangements with the government of Quebec for resources within the traditional territory of the Algonquins; and

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- (d) partnerships with public and private sector interests with respect to forestry and tourism within the Trilateral Agreement territory.

However, these negotiations cannot take place until the objectives of the Trilateral Agreement are fulfilled, including the completion of Phases I, II and III. It is estimated that this will take two years at \$800,000 per year.

1,600,000

(8) *Expanded Land Base and Electrification*

The 59 acre Reserve at Rapid Lake is not adequate to meet the existing or future needs of Algonquin residential and community development. The Algonquins are not looking for an addition to Reserve, they foresee an expansion to their land base through negotiations under the Trilateral Agreement.

Further capital development at the Rapid Lake Reserve site is limited by constraints related to electrification. Options will have to be considered to expand electrical capacity, including development of a mini-hydro dam, connection to the hydro grid, as well as alternative sources of energy. However, maintenance of the diesel generation system will be required until a suitable replacement is decided upon and developed.

Total Estimated Costs: \$ 20,497,400

4. IMPLEMENTATION AND SCHEDULE

What is contemplated for the implementation of this proposal is as follows:

- (1) Acceptance-in-principle by the federal government;
- (2) Identification of estimated resources to carry out the proposal;
- (3) Evaluation of the existing site at Rapid Lake Reserve by a town/municipal planner;
- (4) Development of detailed costs and plans for all elements by experts; and
- (5) Construction and Development.

The Schedule Contemplated for the completion of this proposal is 5 years. However, the approval in principle and planning phase needs to be completed by this Fall.