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### RESEARCH PROTOCOLS OF THE WFRC

Research proposals will be developed through collaboration between the parties of this Agreement.

Upon acquisition of research funding each research project will develop a Research Protocol which incorporates the following elements:

1. A statement that the project is a research partnership under the Whitefeather Forest Research Cooperative;
2. Identification of the specific experts and researchers who will be involved in the project;
3. That the project research partnership will be accountable to Pikangikum First Nation and the institutions of the research partners;
4. The composition of an Advisory Committee made up of members of the WFRC agreed to by the Whitefeather Forest Initiative Steering Group and research partners responsible for research funding;
5. Research being performed by researchers from the University of Manitoba, Sault College, Lakehead University, the University of Winnipeg and research from other institutions shall be undertaken in accordance with the policies of their respective institutions.
6. The Advisory Committee will have the responsibility to review approved project proposal and provide guidance and advise on the project activities consistent with funding agency requirements;
7. The WFRC will seek authorization to undertaken approved research projects from by the Council of Pikangikum First Nation or a designated community authority;



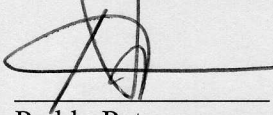




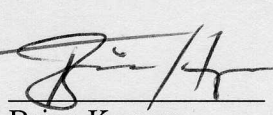
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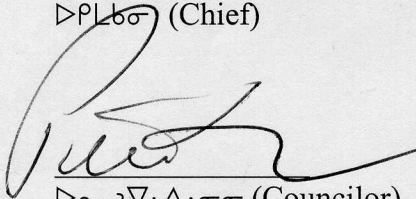
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For Pikangikum First Nation)



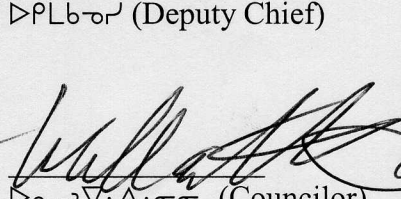
Paddy Peters,  
ᐅᐱᐱᐱᐱ (Chief)



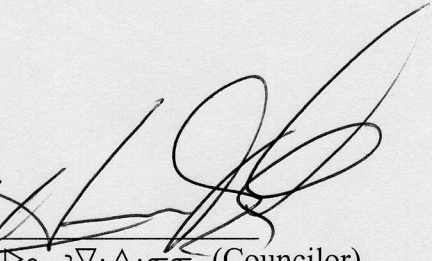
Brian Keeper,  
ᐅᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ (Deputy Chief)



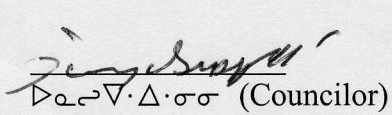
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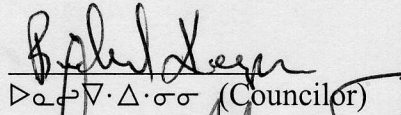
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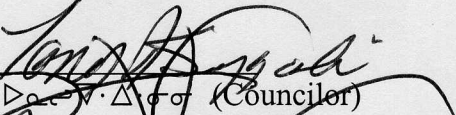
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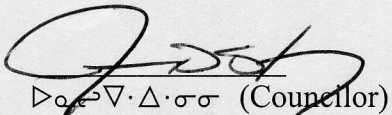
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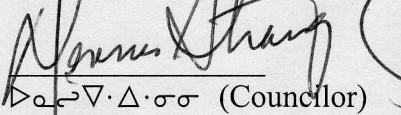
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ᐅᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ (Councilor)

Whitman

(Elder)

LIZZIE T

(Elder)

Paul Moore

(Elder)

George B. Strong

(Elder)

June Duill

(Elder)

Isidor Peter

(Elder)

Solomon

(Elder)

MARTHA PASCH

(Elder)

Jim Janta

(Elder)

Ellen Peter

(Elder)

JEAN TORTRE

(Elder)

Gayle Sugar

(Elder)

Jemima Peter

(Elder)

Aileen Janta

(Elder)

Roy Duill

(Elder)

June Strong

(Elder)



(Elder)

Jack Reussel

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Chula King

(Elder)

Nana Duill

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Charles Peter

Don Janta

Martha Strong

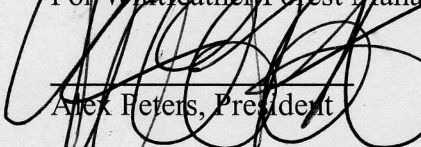
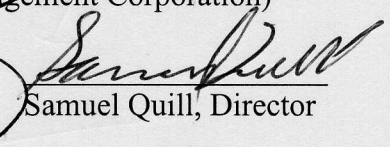
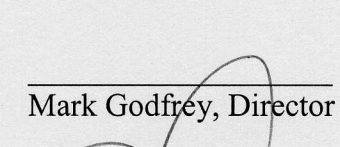
Adrian Hill

Jimmy Duill

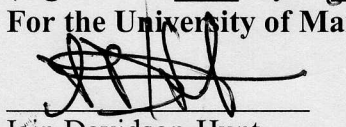
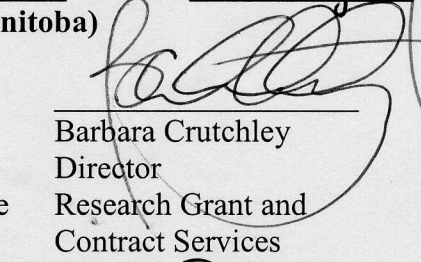
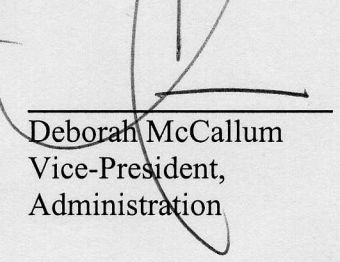
Agnes Dumbord

SIMON MOOSE


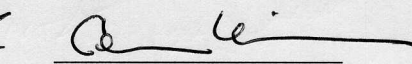
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(Signed this 17th day of June, 2004 at Pikangikum First Nation  
For Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation)

 Alex Peters, President  
 Samuel Quill, Director  
 Mark Godfrey, Director


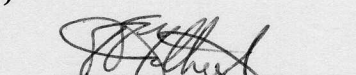
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(Signed this 17th day of June, 2004 at P. Kangikum  
For the University of Manitoba)

 Iain Davidson-Hunt  
Asst. Professor,  
Natural Resources Institute  
 Barbara Crutchley  
Director  
Research Grant and  
Contract Services  
 Deborah McCallum  
Vice-President,  
Administration

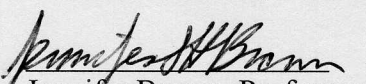
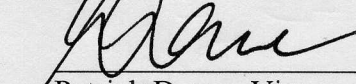
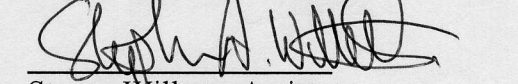
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(Signed this 10th day of June, 2004 at Sault College  
For Sault College)

 Brian Punch,  
Academic Administrator  
 Colin Kirkwood, Dean  
Natural Resource Program

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(Signed this 17th day of June, 2004  
For Lakehead University)

 Scott Hamilton, Professor  
Dept. of Anthropology  
 Fred Gilbert, President  
(Acting V-P Research)

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(Signed this 17 day of July, 2004 at Winnipeg  
For the University of Winnipeg)

 Jennifer Brown, Professor,  
Dept. of History, Centre for  
Rupert's Land Studies  
 Patrick Deane, Vice  
President (Finance and  
Administration)  
(Academic) and  
Provost.  
 Stephen Willetts, Acting  
President/Vice President  
Academic  
Stephen Willetts,  
Vice-President  
(Finance + Administration)

## SCHEDULE "A"

### INITIAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Pikangikum First Nation, Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation the University of Manitoba, under the WFRC, hereby agree to work together to seek funding in order to undertake research on the following themes:

1. Shared Criteria and Indicators for the holistic management of the WFPA. This will integrate teachings, customs and experiential knowledge that have been used by Pikangikum People to assess changes in the land with western science. Shared Criteria and Indicators can act as a conceptual bridge between Pikangikum's goals and objectives of land management and those of other partners such as provincial governments, environmental organizations and market certification. The creation of such Criteria and Indicators will be a necessary step as initial resource managers from outside the community will work with local experts from the community. They will benefit from having access to shared Criteria and Indicators to guide management decisions and monitor outcomes.

Funding Target – Professor Iain Davidson-Hunt; Sustainable Forest Management Network;

2. Indigenous Cultural Landscapes, Land Management and New Media.

Develop new innovations to document, translate and represent indigenous cultural landscapes so that they can be included in land management. This will include developing and working with new media technology and methods to evaluate their use by Pikangikum to communicate the values and meanings of a place (WFPA) to resource managers, WFI partners and the public. Research will look at specific parts of the cultural landscape that are currently in the cultural and ecological databases of the WFMC. Other data held by the WFMC and other partners can also contribute to this research.

Funding Target: Prof. Iain Davidson-Hunt, Prof. Jennifer Brown - Standard SSHRC Grant; Pikangikum First Nation, Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation, Prof. Iain Davidson-Hunt; Prof. Jennifer Brown - SSHRC CURA, Trillium Foundation, Canadian Heritage

3. Woodland Caribou Research.

Identify protection strategies for woodland caribou habitat in the Whitefeather Forest Planning Area through a partnership between Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science.

Funding secured from the Ontario Living Legacy Trust and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

#### 4. Heritage Research.

Build a cultural heritage (archaeology and ethno-history) component into the on-going research program of Pikangikum First Nation (PFN) involving the Whitefeather Forest and Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (WCPP) (Figure 1). Pikangikum First Nation has an on-reserve population of about 2,200 people, and is located 120 km northwest of Red Lake in northwestern Ontario. It is within the boreal forest mantled Precambrian Shield, is sparsely populated, has limited road access, and is economically underdeveloped. Very little archaeological research has been done in the region.

Funding Targets – Prof. Scott Hamilton - Standard SSHRC Grant; Pikangikum First Nation, Indigenous Values Overview Scan for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (Signature Site) – MNR contribution; Pikangikum First Nation, Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation, Prof. Scott Hamilton - Comprehensive Heritage Resources Research Program – Canadian Heritage, Ontario, SSHRC First Peoples Program



**APPENDIX 1****EBR Registry Number:** PB03E1003    **Type of Posting:** Policy**Ministry:** Natural Resources                      **Status of Posting:** Proposal**Date Proposal Loaded:** 2003/05/14**Comment Period:** 57 day(s)

Written submissions may be made between May 14, 2003 and July 10, 2003.

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***NOTICE OF PROPOSAL FOR POLICY***

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This notice initiates the Community-based Land Use Planning process for the Whitefeather Forest and Adjacent Areas, north of Red Lake, Ontario. The Terms of Reference for this process can be viewed by contacting the locations listed below or can be accessed electronically through the link provided at the bottom of this notice.

This notice was first published May 14, 2003. It was re-published May 21, 2003 to extend the comment period, and to provide a link to the Whitefeather Forest website.

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***Proposal Title:***

Northern Boreal Initiative: Whitefeather Forest and Adjacent Areas  
Community-based Land Use Strategy

***Short Description:***

The Northern Boreal Initiative (NBI) was established in 2000 (Registry # PB01E1008). The NBI has a goal to provide several northern First Nations with opportunities to take a leading role in the orderly development of new, commercial forest management opportunities, including working collaboratively with the ministry on planning for such opportunities. Proposed locations are north of the area of Ontario that is described in both the Area of the Undertaking (AOU) for the Class Environmental Assessment for Timber Management on Crown Lands in Ontario and in the Ontario Living Legacy (OLL) Strategy. The NBI goal is important to foster sustainable economic development opportunities for stronger First Nation community futures.

NBI affirms that land use planning is one of the first steps in making wise decisions about potential land uses and resource development. Community-based Land Use Planning was adopted in 2002 as a framework to guide the

preparation of strategic land use direction. The process is to be led by First Nations in association with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and NBI (Registry # PB01E1012).

Key elements of Community-based Land Use Planning are the recognition of a need to balance local, landscape-level and provincial interests, and a commitment to rationalize proposed new land uses with traditional Aboriginal uses. Planning processes generally take two to three years to complete. During that time, all interested parties will be invited to participate in this consensus-building approach to develop the strategic direction. The lead First Nation(s) will follow community-determined approval procedures. MNR can provide approvals for the recommended strategic land use direction through administration of the Public Lands Act.

Following the approval of strategic direction, the next steps for land and resource allocations and the initiation of activities are determined by the Environmental Assessment Act and other relevant legislation, and by resource management planning responsibilities.

The first of several Community-based Land Use Planning processes is now ready to begin and will be led by Pikangikum First Nation in association with NBI. The resulting land use strategy will guide the protection and management of lands and resources over a 1.3 million hectare area in northwestern Ontario, north of Red Lake, Ontario and north of the OLL Strategy area.

The Community-based Land Use Planning Area is described in two sections. A reference map is available electronically through a link provided at the bottom of this page. The sections are:

- Section A: The Whitefeather Forest Planning Area (WFPA) of 1.2 million hectares is defined by Pikangikum First Nation on the basis of traditional use and occupancy,
- Section B: Three Adjacent Areas defined by Pikangikum First Nation and MNR's Red Lake District are located between the Whitefeather Area and the northern boundary of the OLL area. In these areas, Pikangikum First Nation has historical occupancy interests, but does not currently hold traplines. The Adjacent Areas are the Valhalla Area at 44,500 hectares, the Crossland Lake Area at 24,700 hectares and the Blondin Lake Area at 40,000 hectares.

Pikangikum First Nation will lead planning for the WFPA. The Red Lake District will lead planning for the Adjacent Areas in a consolidated process with the WFPA.

Community-based Land Use Planning is a key component of Pikangikum's overall Whitefeather Forest Initiative and is one of the NBI orderly development steps. MNR is working with Pikangikum to support planning needs, provide a provincial and landscape-level context, and assist with the

consultative process.

Pikangikum First Nation describes the Whitefeather Forest as an ‘Indigenous Cultural Landscape’, characterized by the traditional use and stewardship of the Pikangikum people in the northern boreal forest environment. Traditional activities include hunting and fishing, trapping, and harvesting of other non-timber forest products. The population of Pikangikum is 2,000. A variety of remote tourism establishments exist throughout the area based on numerous lakes and river systems. There is one all-weather road, the Nungesser, that reaches to the southern shore of the Berens River.

The land use strategy will be developed respecting traditional and other existing uses, will recommend appropriate protected areas, and will consider the capability of lands and resources to support new allocations and land uses such as forestry, tourism, recreation, mining, and waterpower. Proposals will be consistent with Pikangikum’s stewardship principles, will reflect a rationalization of new uses with traditional use, and will address provincial responsibilities, including those expressed in the OLL Land Use Strategy and the 1999 Ontario Forest Accord. Defining protected areas that contribute to meeting the objectives of the provincial parks and protected areas system is a priority.

Traditional knowledge, traditional ecological knowledge, western science, and all other available information for both the local and broader landscape scales will support decision making.

A Terms of Reference has been prepared that identifies the Whitefeather Forest Community-based Land Use Planning goal, principles, planning structure, and schedule. The adjacent planning areas will adhere to the same process and schedule. Additional direction regarding consultation opportunities and process is provided in the Terms. This documentation is available at the locations noted below and on the web site listed at the end of this document.

### ***Purpose of the Proposal:***

To prepare strategic land use direction for the Pikangikum Whitefeather Forest Area, Valhalla, Crossland Lake, and Blondin Lake Adjacent Areas that will support decisions for the establishment of protected areas, for the protection and management of ecosystems, and for sustainable resource development opportunities.

### ***Other Relevant Information:***

Information about the Northern Boreal Initiative and Community-based Land Use Planning is available at the locations below. A link to the Registry sites for NBI is provided below.

Ontario's commitment to NBI is founded on policy direction and commitments from the 1999 Ontario Forest Accord, Ontario's Living Legacy and the 1996 Aboriginal Policy Framework with the associated Building Aboriginal Economies Strategy. The preparation of strategic land use direction, led by First Nations, is consistent with commitments of the 1999 Ontario Forest Accord. In commitment number 24, the Accord describes support for initiatives directed to the orderly development of areas north of the AOU on a best efforts basis and as quickly as possible subject to the following conditions:

- Full agreement of affected First Nations
- Subject to obtaining the concurrence of the Minister of the Environment to provide coverage modeled after the coverage of the Timber Class EA terms and conditions, and,
- Recognition and regulation of parks and protected areas on these lands.

The First Nation communities currently working with NBI are Pikangikum, Poplar Hill, McDowell Lake, North Spirit Lake, Eabametoong, Mishkeegogamang, Marten Falls, Moose Cree, Constance Lake, Cat Lake, and Slate Falls. Communities are in various stages of preparing for planning, gathering background information and describing their land use planning process. As they become ready, communities will define a planning area, planning subjects, anticipated timelines, and opportunities for consultation. Community and provincial endorsement of recommendations will be sought to complete the preparation of strategies.

The Community-based Land Use Planning approach is consistent with MNR's intention to proceed in a manner without prejudice to the Aboriginal and treaty rights of First Nation communities and individuals.

MNR's role in Community-based Land Use Planning is that of a planning partner and facilitator, to bring forward the vision of sustainable development, to ensure ecological sustainability, and to provide for public participation in environmentally significant decision-making. MNR will follow its strategy of Integrated Resource Management (IRM), directing ministry efforts to achieve the optimum sustainable level of benefits from all of Ontario's natural resources, while, at the same time, minimizing conflicts among resource management activities, users and uses. This is consistent with the MNR's strategic direction contained in the document 'Beyond 2000'.

The allocation of specific areas for the purpose of commercial forest management takes place after land use strategy approval through preparation of a forest management plan, a process that also includes a rigorous public consultation program. Among other approvals, any new commercial forestry opportunities will require licensing under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA).

Preparation of a land use strategy does not relieve MNR of its obligations under the Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act). MNR's existing approvals for activities will continue to apply and new EA Act coverage will need to be obtained for commercial forest management activities, north of the AOU. It is anticipated that the EA Act coverage to be sought will be modeled after the coverage of the Timber Class EA terms and conditions.

The Ministry of Natural Resources will collect comments under the authority of the Public Lands Act in order to assist in making decisions and determining further public consultation needs. Comments and opinions will be kept on file and may be included in study documentation that is made available for public review. The MNR may also use this information as public input on other resource management surveys and projects.

During the development of land use strategies, the Ministry is considering both Beyond 2000 and its Statement of Environmental Values.

### ***Other Public Consultation:***

First Nations communities, resource users, local and provincial interest groups, government agencies, landowners, and the general public have received an Invitation to Participate through direct written notice. Persons not included in this initial mailing who wish to be involved in the process may have their names added to the mailing list by contacting the Area Supervisor at the Red Lake District office at the address given below. Public notice of this planning process has also been placed in local newspapers.

At the Invitation to Participate stage, the planning team is seeking any knowledge and/or concerns about the planning area that will assist in the development of the land use strategy. In addition, issues that need to be addressed in the planning process can be identified.

Opportunities for Public Involvement will include:

1. Invitation to Participate, Viewing of the Terms of Reference and Background Information – June 2003 (this is the current opportunity)
2. Public Review of Issues and Options – February 2004
3. Public Review of Draft Strategy – October 2004
4. Public Inspection of Approved Strategy – March 2005

At each stage of public consultation, open houses will be held in Pikangikum and Red Lake. These open houses will provide information relevant to the particular phase of planning occurring at that time. Project Planning Team members will be present to provide information, collect comments, and answer questions. Notice of each open house will be mailed to all names on the mailing list at least 15 days prior. Summaries of all public input will be provided.

**Comments should be directed to the following Contact Person:**

Roy Sidders, Red Lake Area North Supervisor  
MNR Red Lake District  
P.O. Box 5003, 227 Howey Street  
Red Lake, Ontario, P0V 2M0  
PHONE: (807) 727-2253 FAX: (807) 727-2861

**Some Government offices have additional information on this proposal for viewing. These are listed below:**

MNR Northwest Regional Planning Unit  
435 James Street South, Suite 221a  
Ontario Government Building, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7E 6E3  
PHONE: (807) 475-1251 FAX: (807) 473-3023

MNR Red Lake District Office  
P.O. Box 5003, 227 Howey Street  
Red Lake, Ontario, P0V 2M0  
PHONE: (807) 727-2253 FAX: (807) 727-2861

**Additional material in support of this notice is available by clicking the following hyperlink(s):**

<http://www.whitefeatherforest.com/>  
<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/EBR/nbi2003/index.html>  
<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/oll/ofaab/accord.html>  
<http://www.nativeaffairs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/apf.htm>

**All comments will be considered as part of the decision-making by the Ministry if they:**

- a. are submitted in writing;**
- b. reference the EBR Registry number; and**
- c. are received by the Contact person within the specified comment period.**

**Please Note: No acknowledgment or individual response will be provided to those who comment. All comments and submissions received will become part of the public record.**

## APPENDIX 2

**EBR Registry Number:** PB01E1012    **Type of Posting:** Policy  
**Ministry:** Natural Resources            **Status of Posting:** Decision  
**Date Proposal Loaded:** 2001/07/13  
**Date Decision Loaded:** 2002/11/20  
**Comment Period:** 110 day(s)

Written submissions were permitted between July 13, 2001 and October 31, 2001.

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### ***NOTICE OF DECISION FOR POLICY***

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A registry notice inviting public involvement in the development of a land use planning approach for the Northern Boreal Initiative (NBI), called Community-based Land Use Planning (C-LUP), was published on July 13, 2001 with a 65-day comment period. This notice was subsequently re-posted for an additional 45-day period resulting in a total of 110 days for comment.

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#### ***Proposal Title:***

Northern Boreal Initiative – Community-based Land Use Planning Approach

#### ***Proposal Decision:***

MNR endorses Community-based Land Use Planning as a framework to guide planning by First Nations working with the Northern Boreal Initiative. The approach has been refined to reflect careful consideration of comments received from the public during the review period.

**Number of Comments Received: 5**

#### ***Effect of the Comments on the Decision of the Ministry:***

As a result of the Environmental Registry notice for the proposed "Community-based Land Use Planning approach", five written submissions were received. Consultation on the approach during meetings and workshops also contributed to MNR's decision.

This decision is provided to proceed with the approach described as Community-based Land Use Planning in the Northern Boreal Initiative area. Subsequent consultation for the preparation of each land use strategy, using this



approach, will commence with a Terms of Reference and continue throughout the process.

Reviewers expressed support for the commitment to provide an arrangement with NBI whereby First Nations lead planning for their traditional areas. There was some interest expressed in expanding planning to cover an all-inclusive northern area, rather than the NBI area. MNR has carefully considered the scope of planning and is prepared to move forward with Community-based Land Use Planning for the defined area based on the expressed interest of the First Nations working with NBI. This is consistent with commitments to move forward and address NBI's goal of new economic development opportunities for First Nations.

Considerable interest, and caution, was expressed regarding the need to integrate local planning with broader goals and objectives, and to carefully consider the sequencing of planning decisions. For some subjects, landscape scale direction will be essential to evaluate local options, or to measure the contributions of local recommendations to the achievement of Provincial goals and objectives. MNR recognizes the importance of these concerns and will work together with First Nations and interested parties to address them.

There was interest in the clarification of MNR's responsibilities and sharing of authority in decision-making with Community-based Land Use Planning. Land use planning has been identified with NBI as an essential step to achieve sustainable development goals. A working relationship between MNR and each First Nation(s) involved in NBI has been described to understand and share this planning responsibility. MNR and the First Nations leading planning will work towards dual endorsement of the resulting land use strategies.

The commitment to a consultative process was important to reviewers, both to provide adequate consultation within the First Nation communities and to provide adequate consultation opportunities to others. Community-based Land Use Planning commits to use of a consultative process for development of each individual strategy. Terms of reference describing consultation opportunities will be prepared for each strategy. MNR will also provide consultation opportunities at set points through this Registry and other means.

The importance of ensuring that adequate information and science is applied to decision-making was highlighted. To this end, both government and non-government organizations can support community efforts by ensuring that all available information is brought forward, by supporting efforts to gain better information, and by providing expert advice.

Comments of broader government policy or jurisdiction that were considered beyond the scope of Community-based Land Use Planning were referred to alternate discussion forums.

The adequacy of funding to support Community-based Land Use Planning was questioned. Funding will be required for information gathering and analysis, consultation, and administrative functions. The expectation is that First Nation communities will be seeking funding arrangements through a number of agencies; this sourcing of funds will appropriately reflect agency interests and responsibilities.

Below is the text of the proposal as it was first published.

***Short Description:***

The Northern Boreal Initiative (NBI) has a goal to provide several northern First Nation communities with opportunities to take a leading role in the development of new, commercial forestry opportunities, including working collaboratively with the ministry on planning for such opportunities. Proposed locations are north of the area of Ontario that is described in the Area of the Undertaking (AOU) for the Class Environmental Assessment for Timber Management on Crown Lands in Ontario, and the Ontario's Living Legacy (OLL) planning area.

Land use planning is one of the first steps in making wise decisions about potential land uses and resource development. The resulting strategic land use direction will identify where activities can occur, will provide guidance for future land use and will provide input to the subsequent preparation of resource management plans, for example, forest management plans.

A Community-based Land Use Planning approach has been designed for NBI. This concept will provide the First Nation communities associated with NBI the opportunity to develop a strategic framework for land and resource use. The communities will engage members in consensus-based decision-making and will invite broader consultation to share and seek input from other interested parties. Planning will consider the community level needs as well as broader ecological considerations and provincial level direction.

Community-based Land Use Planning will consider forestry as one of many interests. Communities will address and find a balance among protection, conservation, traditional and livelihood uses, and sustainable development. NBI has recognized that the preparation of recommendations for parks and protected areas is a priority that will be addressed through the Community-based Land Use Planning approach.

The First Nation communities currently working with NBI are Pikangikum, Moose Cree, Constance Lake, Cat Lake, Slate Falls, and Eabametoong. Communities are in various stages of preparing for planning, gathering background information and describing their land use planning process. As

they become ready, communities will define a planning area, planning subjects, anticipated timelines and opportunities for consultation. Community and provincial endorsement of recommendations will be sought to complete the preparation of strategies.

MNR's role in Community-based Land Use Planning is that of a planning partner and facilitator, to bring forward the vision of sustainable development, to ensure ecological sustainability, and to provide for public participation in environmentally significant decision-making. MNR will follow its strategy of Integrated Resource Management (IRM), directing ministry efforts to achieve the optimum sustainable level of benefits from all of Ontario's natural resources, while, at the same time, minimizing conflicts among resource management activities, users and uses. This is consistent with the MNR's strategic direction contained in the document 'Beyond 2000'.

The Community-based Land Use Planning approach is consistent with MNR's intention to proceed in a manner without prejudice to the Aboriginal and treaty rights of First Nation communities and individuals.

The geographic reference map for the NBI can be viewed by following the weblink at the bottom of this notice.

***Purpose of the Proposal:***

To provide a planning approach for developing land use strategies with the Northern Boreal Initiative, called Community-based Land Use Planning.

***Other Relevant Information:***

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) established the Northern Boreal Initiative (EBR Registry # PB00E1008, <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/014243ep.htm>) to address the expressed interest of several northern First Nation communities, and the province, in new, sustainable commercial forestry opportunities. Among other approvals, any new commercial forestry opportunities will require licensing under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA).

Ontario's commitment to NBI is founded on policy direction and commitments from the 1999 Ontario Forest Accord, Ontario's Living Legacy and the 1996 Aboriginal Policy Framework with the associated Building Aboriginal Economies Strategy. The Ontario Forest Accord, in Commitment number 24, establishes support for initiatives directed towards the orderly development of areas north of the AOU on a best efforts basis and as quickly as possible, subject to conditions.

Preparation of a land use strategy does not relieve MNR of its obligations under

the Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act). MNR's existing approvals for activities will continue to apply and new EA Act coverage will need to be obtained for commercial forest management activities, north of the AOU. It is anticipated that the EA Act coverage to be sought will be modelled after the coverage of the Timber Class EA terms and conditions.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is collecting comments under the authority of the Public Lands Act to assist in making decisions and determining further public consultation needs. Comments and opinions will be kept on file and may be included in study documentation that is made available for public review. The MNR may also use this information as public input on other resource management surveys and projects.

Background information related to this proposal are listed as weblinks in blue at the bottom of the notice for the following:

Community-based Land Use Planning Document (English and French)

- **Ministry of Natural Resources, Beyond 2000**
- **Ontario Living Legacy Land Use Strategy site**
- **Ontario Forest Accord site**
- **Ontario's Aboriginal Policy Framework and Building Aboriginal Economies Strategy**

The weblink to the Ontario legislation site is [http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/home\\_E.asp?lang=en](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/home_E.asp?lang=en).

***Other Public Consultation:***

Discussion of the Community-based Land Use Planning approach has occurred on several occasions with First Nation communities, members of the Ontario Forest Accord Board, interest groups and other agencies responsible for lands and natural resources.

**Comments were directed to the following Contact Person:**

Manager, Northern Boreal Initiative  
MNR Field Services Division  
Ontario Government Bldg., 435 James St. Suite 221A  
Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7E 6S8  
PHONE: (807) 475-1251 FAX: (807) 473-3023

**Additional material in support of this notice is available by clicking the following hyperlink(s):**

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nbi2002/>  
<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nbi>  
<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MRN/nbi>  
<http://www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com/partner.html>  
<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/oll/ofaab/accord.html>  
<http://www.nativeaffairs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/apf.htm>

**The EBR stipulates that the Ministry must take every reasonable step to ensure that all comments relevant to the proposal received as part of the public participation process are considered in this decision(S. 35 ebr). Only comments relevant to this proposal were considered in this decision.**