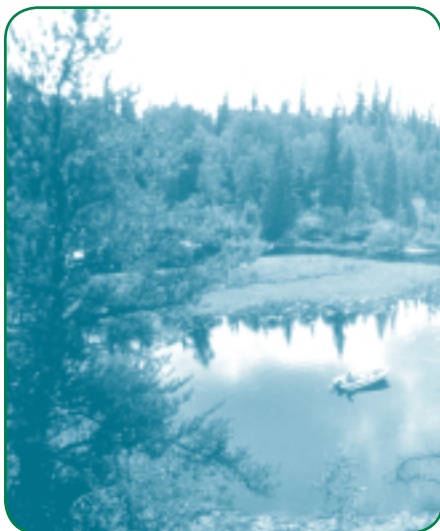


Manitoba and First Nations Co-operate on Protected Lands

Appendix C

On March 5, 1998 the Manitoba government, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. (MKO) agreed to undertake a consultation process to ensure Manitoba First Nations participation in the establishment and management of new protected areas. Subsequently, the Southern Chiefs Organization supported the Memorandum, and advised it would participate in the process. The Memorandum of Understanding addressed the following significant points:

1. A working group consisting of First Nations representatives and Manitoba officials was established to co-ordinate the consultation process to identify and establish new areas to be protected.



2. New protected areas will be identified and designated only after full consultation with any affected First Nation(s). The objective and intent of Manitoba is to reach consensus regarding the establishment and management of a protected area with any First Nation(s) likely to be directly affected before designating a site as protected.
3. Protected areas which are established will not infringe upon any existing Aboriginal or treaty rights of First Nation peoples or rights under the Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Agreement.
4. The Memorandum of Understanding will be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of any agreements between First Nations in Manitoba and government respecting lands, waters and natural resources.
5. The Province contributed \$35,000 to initiate the consultation process.

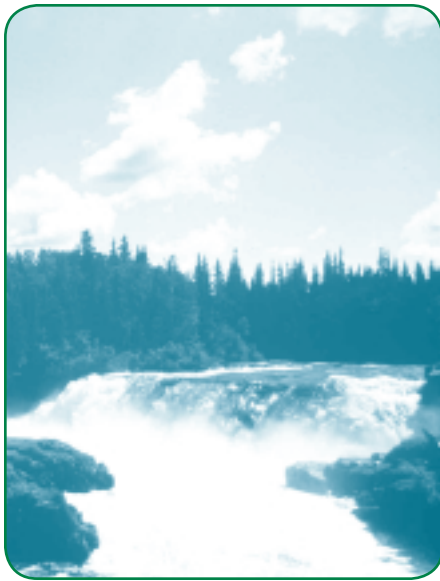
In the press release that accompanied the signing ceremony, AMC Grand Chief Rod Bushie stated, *“Manitoba First Nations have taken steps to ensure that any new protected areas are identified and designated only after full consultation with any affected First Nations and that the management of protected areas will be planned in consultation with affected First Nations.”* As well, MKO Grand Chief Francis Flett stated in the same press release that *“Through this partnership, the considerable traditional ecological knowledge of First Nations people will be incorporated in the process of selecting potential protected areas. As well, First Nations and Manitoba have agreed that First Nations people will continue to enjoy access to protected areas for the purposes of exercising rights under the treaties and the Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Agreement.”*



After the signing, work began immediately to implement the Memorandum. In early 1999, the first two new park reserves were created for six months, following resolutions of support from two First Nation communities. By the end of 1999, the term of each of these two park reserves was extended for the maximum five year period to enable the detailed consultations, as called for in the *Provincial Parks Act*.

On March 3, 2000 Conservation Minister Oscar Lathlin extended the Memorandum for three more years to March 5, 2003. Copies of the Memorandum of Understanding are available through AMC, MKO, The Southern Chiefs Organization or Manitoba Conservation at the addresses listed in this Action Plan.





The Protected Areas Initiative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) ensures the direct participation of First Nations in identifying, establishing and managing new protected areas. Manitoba Conservation follows a Community Participation Process with directly affected First Nations. Through the MOU, other First Nations may also request to participate in discussions about new protected areas. Designating a protected area includes up to seven stages in the Community Participation Process.



<p>Stage 1: Notification & Information (Workbooks: January/99)</p>	<p>Introductory letters and workbooks, including a large wall-sized map, have been provided to all First Nations in Manitoba to assist in the decision-making process.</p>
<p>Stage 2: Information Session(s)</p>	<p>Information Sessions are provided by Manitoba Conservation to help community leadership and resource user representatives become familiar with the Protected Areas Initiative.</p>
<p>Stage 3: ASI Discussion & Decision-making</p>	<p>First Nations work together with Manitoba Conservation to complete decision-making about ASIs or other areas that would be supported or nominated for protection.</p>
<p>Stage 4: ASI Formal Support or Nomination</p>	<p>First Nation(s) support or nominate areas for protection by Band Council Resolution (or similar formal letter), with an attached map that clearly illustrates the area(s).</p> <p>AREA(s) MAY BE PROTECTED: After Stage 4, if no changes to ASI(s) are proposed.</p>
<p>Stage 5: Boundary Consultation</p>	<p>As a result of further consultations with resource sectors, changes to the supported or nominated area(s) may be proposed. Significant changes will be reviewed by the First Nation for support before the area is designated.</p> <p>AREA(s) MAY BE PROTECTED: After Stage 5, with First Nation support.</p>
<p>Stage 6: Protected Area Management Planning</p>	<p>Participation continues after a protected area is designated. Manitoba Conservation, in partnership with the First Nation(s), will develop a plan to manage the protected area.</p>
<p>Stage 7: Protected Area Management</p>	<p>First Nation(s) can participate directly in the on-going management of the protected area.</p>