

# FRIENDSHIP ACCORD

## BETWEEN

### Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Town of The Pas and Rural Municipality of Kelsey



### *Three Communities – One Heart*

**WITH RESPECT THAT:** The Chief and Council of Opaskwayak Cree Nation, the Reeve and Council of the Rural Municipality of Kelsey and the Mayor and Council of the Town of The Pas, Manitoba (hereafter called *the Councils*) recognize and accept that they share common boundaries and interests; and

The Councils and the communities they represent, located within the traditional territory of Opaskwayak Cree Nation, recognize the significant service of and contributions made by all peoples and organizations within the three communities as well as other neighbouring communities; and

The Councils desire to work together in a cooperative manner for the benefit of all residents of their respective areas; and

The Councils wish to strengthen the social, spiritual and economic ties that exist between the three communities and to establish relationships based upon mutual respect and recognition; and

The Councils unanimously agree that arrangements which support harmonization and mutual respect of these interests are beneficial for all communities

**PURPOSE :** The Councils as governing bodies wish to establish stable and effective 'government to government' relations and a framework that will strengthen, enhance and honour our historical, political, economic, social and cultural relationships.

**VISION :** We will share our wisdom to build a better future for our children and generations to follow. Three communities committed to trusting, celebrating and respecting one another, our ancestors and our environment.

**PRINCIPLES AND VALUES:**

- Commit to build and maintain strong mutual trust and respect;
- Acknowledge the history, past experiences and differences that impact current perceptions and opinions;
- Respect each other's customs and beliefs; share values and culture in spirit and practice;
- Strengthen the cooperative and supportive bond between governing bodies to promote the well-being of all for future generations;
- Develop an effective and meaningful process that promotes cooperation on common issues, concerns, pursuits and initiatives based on ongoing opportunities for open communication and 'face to face' meetings;
- Enhance communication and information sharing by committing to open, frank, honest and straightforward interaction;
- Commit together to the importance of implementing solutions to address heritage protection and environmental stewardship;
- Celebrate our shared northern lifestyle;
- Improve our communities by making the region more economically vibrant and sustainable;
- Invest in our youth, the future of our communities, by ensuring cultural, recreational, educational and career opportunities are readily available;
- Address root causes relating to public safety, so that all residents and visitors feel safe in the community and region;



**PROCESS:**

Listen to and consider concerns and suggestions expressed in good faith; and

Respect each other's diversity and respective jurisdictions, governing authority and governance practices

The Councils agree to meet regularly, at least twice annually, to promote open and constructive dialogue and to agree on common priorities;

The Councils agree to establish a Joint Committee to identify processes to address these common priorities and to deal with any interim matters that arise between joint meetings;

The Councils agree to establish working groups, from time to time as required, to work on identified common priorities;

Any specific service agreements that are required in the future will be reviewed and recommended by the Joint Committee prior to presentation to a Council/Council meeting or to individual Councils for approval

Should a misunderstanding arise between the Councils, any Council may, at any time, call a special joint meeting to resolve the issue. Where the councils are unable to resolve the issue, any party may request a facilitated resolution process; and

This agreement will be regarded as a 'living agreement' intended to evolve as the parties' relationship evolves. Any Council can initiate a change process to the agreement any time, with the understanding that any amendments must be mutually agreed to by all Councils.

**LIMITATION:**

Nothing in this agreement will be construed:

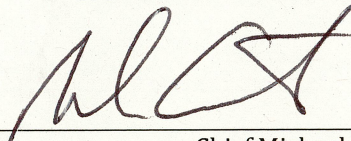
To abrogate or derogate from any Aboriginal, Constitutional or Treaty rights of the Opaskawayak Cree Nation;

To prejudice or affect and statutory power of decision or discretion of any of the Councils, the Approving Officer or any other officer or official of Opaskawayak Cree Nation, the Rural Municipality of Kelsey or Town of The Pas; or

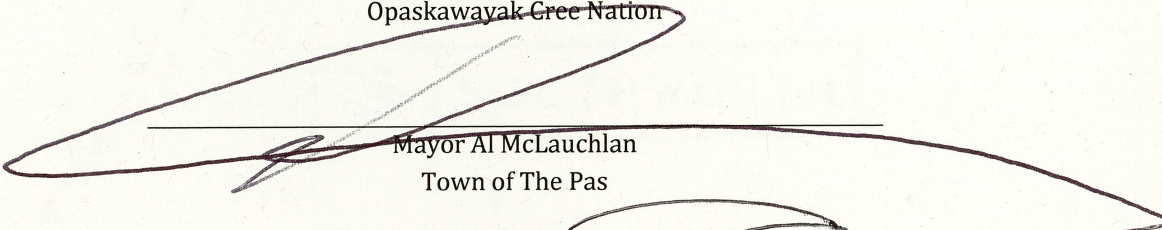
To limit, prejudice or affect any continuing or future negotiations on land claims with the Government of Canada and/or Province of Manitoba

**SIGNING AUTHORITIES for the Agreement**

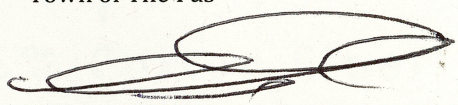
Date



Chief Michael Constant  
Opaskawayak Cree Nation



Mayor Al McLauchlan  
Town of The Pas



Reeve Rod Berezowecki  
Rural Municipality of Kelsey