

RESOLUTION ON METIS HARVESTING

WHEREAS hunting for food is a constitutionally protected right of the Manitoba Metis community;

AND WHEREAS the MMF – as the government of the Manitoba Metis community – has established its own laws to govern the Metis harvest which promote conservation and protection of resources for generations to come;

AND WHEREAS the west side corridor large animal “traditional hunting area” has historically been and continues to be of fundamental importance to the food harvesting practices and traditions of the Manitoba Metis community;

AND WHEREAS the moose populations in some areas of the “traditional hunting area” have been and continue to be under stress, which has resulted in the MMF’s agreement to abstain from exercising Metis hunting rights in those areas in the name of conservation and the protection of the resource for future generations;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Metis community remains committed to protecting the “traditional hunting area” for generations to come by fulfilling its responsibilities as a rights-holder, but requires that the Crown ensure that it is also fulfilling its constitutional duties owing to the Metis community with respect to the meaningful exercise of the Metis right to hunt;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Metis community is willing to continue to make sacrifices to protect and enhance moose populations, but will not accept that the meaningful exercise of the Metis right to hunt in the “traditional hunting area” be sacrificed in the name of development;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Government has not meaningfully consulted with the MMF in relation to the moose populations on the west side corridor since the initial meetings held in relation to the closures;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MMF ASSEMBLY:

1. Agrees to continue to abstain from moose hunting in the already closed GHAs (13, 14, 18 & 26) for one more year and the continuation of this will be considered again at the next MMF Assembly;
2. Demands that meaningful consultation and accommodation in relation to moose harvesting on the west side corridor as well as development projects (i.e., mining, etc.) that have the potential to effect Metis hunting be commenced immediately between the MMF and the Crown;
3. Put the Manitoba Government on notice that it cannot continue to accommodate development and industry, but ignore the locational importance of the west side corridor for the exercise of the Manitoba Metis community’s constitutional food harvesting rights.