



MANITOBA



ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION

BETWEEN THE
ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL
AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

Jointly referred to as the Participants

*Friendship
and Co-operation*



The histories of Canada, Orkney and The Hudson's Bay Company are intertwined. During the 18th and 19th centuries, as many as 90 per cent of the Canadian-based employees of the Hudson's Bay Company were of Orcadian descent. This historical connection is a source of great pride amongst the people of Orkney and the people of the province of Manitoba.

Canada's historic ties to Orkney live on today in place names, personal names and family histories, as well as in museums and archive collections and in the buildings and artefacts found in northern Canada. Lower Fort Garry was built by Orcadian masons. York boats, based on the design of the traditional Orkney yawl, with a crew from Orkney, provided part of the distribution network for the fur trade.

The historic links between Orkney and Manitoba are being commemorated with the Red River Settlement Descendants Reunion at Lower Fort Garry. The reunion of the descendants of Manitoba's early fur trade families, who settled in the Red River Settlement and in northern Manitoba, celebrates their heritage and connection to Orkney. To mark the connection and to renew the historic bonds between Orkney and Manitoba, the Orkney Islands Council and the Government of Manitoba have agreed to sign this Agreement on Friendship and Co-operation.

The objective of this Agreement on Friendship and Co-operation is to reinforce existing bonds and to create new ones to the mutual benefit of Orkney and Manitoba and our respective countries.

Priorities for action under this Agreement will include the promotion of tourism and the exchange of experience in ways of strengthening northern and remote communities through tourism. Other opportunities for improved co-operation will also be considered, including cultural and educational exchanges. The Government of Manitoba's activities will be co-ordinated through the Department of Culture, Heritage and Tourism, and Orkney's point of contact will be the Chief Executive's office, Orkney Islands Council.

This Agreement shall be in effect for the initial term of five years and shall be reviewed jointly by representatives of the signatories prior to or during the fifth year. The Agreement can be renewed or revised by mutual consent.

The signatories will name specific contacts for follow-up and will endeavour to meet periodically to assess progress under this Agreement.

Dated this 17th day of August, 2005, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

FOR THE ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

original signed by

original signed by

Stephen Hagan, Convener

Honourable Eric Robinson,
Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism