

The Métis Nation is recognized as having Aboriginal rights based on their distinct status as an Aboriginal people within Canada. There will be a need to co-ordinate efforts to ensure there is no overlap in protocol negotiations between First Nations and other Aboriginal peoples.

As part of the ESPI process, First Nations communities in the planning area, and the Government of Manitoba, are currently engaged in a protocol negotiation process. This negotiation process is an integral part of the Broad Area Plan. Discussions held by both parties are in the preliminary stages and are intended to build a framework to guide decisions and initiatives within the Broad Area Plan. These *Protocols of Agreement* will constitute a fundamental component of the Broad Area Plan. Contained within these protocols will be provisions that determine how to implement the ingredients of the Broad Area Plan. Thus, the Broad Area Plan is very much about “what we want to do” and the protocols contained within the plan will determine “how it can be done”.

Community visits informed Round Table members that, historically, the views of Aboriginal people have not been considered seriously in most resource development activities or on environmental issues within traditional territories. It was frequently suggested that past governments may have informed Aboriginal communities of resource and industry activities but this cannot be considered participation or consultation. Recent court decisions have confirmed this and have prompted governments to re-examine their relationships with Aboriginal peoples.

The Protocols of Agreement will become an instrument within the Broad Area Plan to effectively guide progress and shape change for generations to come. At the same time, it ensures an ongoing role and full participation for Aboriginal peoples in determining outcomes within their traditional territories.

To build effective, enduring relationships, Aboriginal people in the east side planning area and the Government of Manitoba must endeavour to understand the origins and causes of today’s differences in views. It is critical to the ESPI process that the Government of Manitoba invests the time necessary to cultivate and nourish a new relationship with Aboriginal peoples, who have contributed so extensively to the development of this province. Attempts to reach agreements quickly and without an intense exchange of information, will not likely garner support of communities.

Recommendations:

5.2.1

A Protocol of Agreement be developed between the Government of Manitoba and First Nation governments on the east side of Lake Winnipeg and that the agreement will become an integral part of the Broad Area Plan and serve to guide its implementation.

5.2.2

A Protocol of Agreement be developed between the Government of Manitoba and the Métis Nation government representing the Métis Nation resident on the east side of Lake Winnipeg and that the agreement will become an integral part of the Broad Area Plan and serve to guide its implementation.

5.2.3

The Government of Manitoba should finalize outstanding Treaty Land Entitlement issues with First Nation governments on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

5.2.4

The Government of Manitoba must develop a resource-sharing framework for the east side of Lake Winnipeg within the context of the Protocols. The framework may require two levels: an umbrella agreement between Governments of Manitoba, First Nations and the Métis Nation to serve as guiding principles for the area. Second level agreements will be required between Governments of Manitoba, First Nations and the Métis Nation Governments on specific land use. Agreements for specific land use decisions would include but would not be limited to access, revenue sharing, procurement, capacity building, shared stewardship, and environmental management.

5.2.5

Such agreements should be concluded on all resource uses within Aboriginal traditional territories prior to implementation of recommendations of the Broad Area Plan. For example, these agreements could include share-management arrangements for various natural resources within the planning area, including but not limited to provisions for royalty and/or revenue sharing and other benefits with First Nations Governments and the Métis government representing the Métis Nation resident on the east side of Lake Winnipeg for resources removed from traditional lands.


5.2.6

The Government of Manitoba, crown corporations and other public agencies, and the private sector must recognize, respect, and honour local agreements between east side First Nations Governments and the Métis Nation resident on the east side of Lake Winnipeg respecting development within traditional, cultural, and resource territories, as this is instrumental in creating greater control and participation for local communities.

5.2.7

Community-based land use planning, consistent with the values and principles of the Broad Area Plan, should be initiated or completed prior to any development activities within their traditional lands. It should guide the identification and development of resource-based opportunities, including protected areas and infrastructure development in the east side planning area.





As has been indicated elsewhere in this report it is of paramount importance that adequate resources be made available to assist First Nation and Métis Governments and Northern Affairs communities in land use planning. Community-based land use planning must be given priority attention by all governments engaged or impacted by this process.

5.2.8

All future discussions, consultations and negotiations between the public and private sectors, and First Nations and Métis Governments and Northern Affairs communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg be subject to the protocols defined for such activities in the on-going governance mechanism adopted to oversee the implementation of and adherence to the Broad Area Plan for the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

5.2.9

Whatever on-going mechanism is established to oversee the implementation of and adherence to the East Side of Lake Winnipeg Broad Area Plan, it include monitoring and compliance powers to ensure that both public and private sector resource users comply with all components of the Protocols with First Nations and Métis governments respecting the Broad Area Plan for the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

5.3 Initiatives to Protect the Integrity of the Boreal Environment

One of the three fundamental principles guiding the advice the East Side Round Table provides to government on the Broad Area Plan is: “Maintaining the ecological integrity and biological functions of the boreal forest within the planning area”.

Based on this principle, maintaining the integrity of the boreal environment on the east side has been a core consideration in the development of the plan. The challenge facing the East Side Round Table and stakeholders in the planning area, is to find a means of integrating economic, social, cultural and environmental interests of east side residents and all Manitobans so that the boreal environment is protected, while plan objectives are achieved.

When we speak of maintaining ecological integrity of the boreal environment, we are referring to a landscape upon which natural ecological processes bring about self-organization, diversity, resilience, long-term change and renewal. Ecological integrity is an ecosystem state of being, and needs to be seen as something to be maintained over time. It is a landscape in which there is a full complement of species, natural populations, interdependent relationships, diverse habitats and multiple pathways for energy flow through the ecosystem. It is a landscape with a patchwork of habitats that are not heavily fragmented by linear breaks such as roads and hydroelectric corridors. We are speaking of a landscape on which concerns over the loss of rare or threatened species prompts management constraints and legislation to

