THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT made this day of _	A.D. 20
BETWEEN:	
THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA, represented by the Minister of Municipal and Northern Relation (hereinafter referred to as Manitoba) and	18
(hereinafter referred to as Community) - and -	OF THE FIRST PART
(hereinafter referred to as Auditing Firm)	OF THE SECOND PART

WHEREAS Manitoba and the Community desire that the Auditing Firm performs certain audit services;

AND WHEREAS the Auditing Firm has represented to Manitoba and the Community a willingness to provide the services required by Manitoba and the Community;

AND WHEREAS the parties wish to formalize their relationship.

NOW THEREFORE the parties covenant and agree as follows:

<u>SECTION 1 - TERM OF AGREEMENT</u>

This Agreement comes into effect on the date of signing and shall continue in force until August 31, 2026, unless terminated before or extended beyond that date as hereinafter provided. This Agreement constitutes the auditing services for the two fiscal years ending March 31, 2025 and March 31, 2026.

SECTION 2 - SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

The Auditing Firm shall perform the auditing services as outlined in the audit scope in Appendix I for two fiscal year ends.

Financial Policies Page 1 of 18

<u>SECTION 3 - PERFORMANCE OF AUDITING FIRM OBLIGATIONS</u>

- 3.1 The Auditing Firm shall not perform both auditing services and non-auditing services such as bookkeeping or co-management services for the same Community.
- 3.2 The Auditing Firm represents and warrants that the Auditing Firm possesses the necessary skills, expertise and experience to perform the required services in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

3.3	The Auditing Firm agrees to appoint a qualified and competent person as the auditor who
	shall be responsible to see to the performance of the Auditing Firm and hereby appoints
	as the auditor for this Agreement. If the Auditing Firm
	requires that a replacement person be appointed after this Agreement has been signed, both
	the Auditing Firm and the Community must agree to the new auditor.

SECTION 4 - FEES

- 4.1 Subject to the following subsections, in consideration of services performed to the satisfaction of Manitoba and the Community, the Auditing Firm will invoice the Community and the Community shall pay to the Auditing Firm a fee of \$______ for the March 2025 fiscal year end and a fee of \$______ for the March 2026 fiscal year end.
- 4.2 The Auditing Firm must provide to the Community a detailed written request of the records required to complete the audit four weeks prior to the date the records are required. The Auditing Firm may bill an extra fee of five per cent bi-weekly of the total amount of its audit fee if it has not received the accounting records by the due date provided to the Community. Documentation showing the dates that the records were requested and received is required. Where the audit firm is unable to complete the audit due to not receiving the required records in time to complete the audit, they are to provide the appropriate audit report and certifications by July 31 for the fee specified. Manitoba, the Community and the Auditing Firm may agree to additional services at a mutually agreeable price and such additional services are not to exceed 10 per cent of the value of the contract.
- 4.3 If additional work is required to complete the audit as a result of the Community not preparing the required schedules or documentation, a written request must be submitted to Rico Penamante by email rico.penamante@gov.mb.ca. All additional work must be approved prior to starting to ensure payment will be made for the service rendered.
- 4.4 Where all conditions of this contract are met and Manitoba has not received the audited financial statements including all the required reports and certifications by August 31; Manitoba and/or the Community shall impose a penalty of 10 per cent per week of the contract fee for each and every week, and part thereof, that the required reports are late.

Financial Policies Page 2 of 18

- 4.5 All invoices shall be satisfactory to the Community in both form and content.
- 4.6 The Community shall endeavour to pay the Auditing Firm any fees due within 30 days after the receipt and approval of an invoice.
- 4.7 Those invoiced fees not paid by the Community within 60 days of receipt and approval shall bear interest from the 60th day at the following rate:

<u>Prime Interest Rate</u> (as determined by Manitoba Finance)

SECTION 5 - ASSISTANCE FROM THE COMMUNITY

The Community agrees to make available to the Auditing Firm documents, records and assistance from officers and employees of the Community as, in the opinion of the Community or Manitoba, be reasonably necessary to assist the Auditing Firm in the performance of services under this Agreement.

<u>SECTION 6 - OWNERSHIP OF INFORMATION</u>

- 6.1 All information, data, research, documents, photographs and materials produced by the Auditing Firm, or any officers, employees or agents of the Auditing Firm, in the performance of this Agreement, and all copyright therein, shall be the property of the Auditing Firm pertaining to this engagement.
- 6.2 The Auditing Firm agrees to lend its audit files to Manitoba or its nominee upon request without cost to Manitoba. Manitoba or its nominee may include the trust fund operations manager, regional directors or municipal development consultants.

SECTION 7 - LIABILITY

- 7.1 Manitoba and the Community shall not be liable for any injury to the Auditing Firm, or to any officers, employees or agents of the Auditing Firm, or for any damage to or loss of property of the Auditing Firm, or of the officers, employees or agents of the Auditing Firm, caused by or in any way related to the performance of this Agreement.
- 7.2 Subsection 7.1 does not apply if the injury, damage or loss was caused by the wrongful or negligent act of any officer or employee of Manitoba or the Community while acting within the scope of their employment.

Financial Policies Page 3 of 18

SECTION 8 - TERMINATION

Without restricting any other remedies available, Manitoba or the Community may, at its sole option, immediately terminate this Agreement by written notice giving reasons, if:

- (i) in the opinion of Manitoba or the Community, the services provided by the Auditing Firm are unsatisfactory, inadequate or are improperly performed
- (ii) in the opinion of Manitoba or the Community, the Auditing Firm has failed to comply with any term or condition of this Agreement
- (iii) the Auditing Firm becomes bankrupt or insolvent
- (iv) the funding status of the Community changes (for example, placed into trust)

<u>SECTION 9 - ENTIRE AGREEMENT</u>

This document contains the entire agreement between the parties. There are no undertakings, representations, or promises, expressed or implied, other than those contained in this Agreement.

SECTION 10 - AMENDMENTS

No amendment or change to, or modification of, this Agreement shall be valid unless it is in writing and signed by all parties.

Financial Policies Page 4 of 18

SECTION 11 - NOTICES

11.1	Any notice or other communication to the Auditing Firm under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be sent to the Auditing Firm to:
11.2	Any notice or other communication to the Community under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be delivered or sent to:
11.3	Any notice or other communication to Manitoba under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be delivered or sent to:

Rico Penamante

Trust Fund Operations, Manager Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations Financial and Administrative Services Branch 330-800 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

Financial Policies Page 5 of 18

This Agreement has been executed by the Community, the Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations on behalf of the Manitoba government and by the Auditing Firm on the dates noted below.

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

Witness	Community Signature Date
Witness	Director of Finance for the Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations
	Date
Witness	Auditing Firm Signature
	Date

Financial Policies Page 6 of 18

APPENDIX I

AUDIT SCOPE

For Fiscal Years 2024/25 and 2025/26

TABLE OF CONTENTS

			PAGE
I	Introdu	ction	2
II	Nature o	of Services Required	2
III	Legal ar	nd Regulatory Items	3
IV	Manage	ment Letter	4
V	Supplen	nentary Report	4
VI	Timing		5
VII	Revenue	e Confirmations	5
App	endix A:	Accounting Policy, Required Financial Statements and Sch Management Controls	iedules,
App	endix B:	Council Compensation Regulation	
App	endix C:	Report Distribution List	
App	endix D:	Sample Supplementary Audit Report	

I Introduction

This audit scope is provided for the auditors who perform annual attest audits on the Northern Affairs Communities (NACs). The Financial and Administrative Services Branch (FASB) of Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations (MNR) produces this document to advise the auditors of special audit considerations. As per the department's policy, an audit contract must be signed prior to the provision of any audit services to a NAC. Although the self-administered communities select their own auditor, the FASB must co-sign all audit contracts with the unincorporated NACs.

II Nature of Services Required

The Accounting Firm shall perform an audit for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements and schedules of the Community for the fiscal year ending March 31. The examination of the financial statements is to be performed in accordance with *Canadian Generally Accepted Auditing Standards*. The following is a list of reports to be submitted as a result of the audit:

- 1. An attest audit report is to be issued on the examination of the financial statements. It is to report whether the financial statements present fairly the financial position and the results of operations in conformity with *Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* and the *CPA Canada Handbook*. The audit report is to address the issue of evaluation of internal control procedures on specific account balances including internal control on cash, locally generated revenue and reserve fund investments.
- 2. MNR has an approved financial statement format that communities are required to use which has been updated in accordance with *Public Sector Accounting Board* rules. The communities are provided with the *Financial Management Guide* (FMG) which provides the necessary format. See Appendix A for details on required financial statements and schedules. While the department recognizes that it is Community management's responsibility to prepare the financial statement, we want to emphasize that it is the auditor's responsibility to ensure that the proper reporting format is used and that there are no material errors. A standard financial statement template in Excel is available upon request.
- 3. Consolidated financial statements include the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of the reporting entity. The reporting entity is comprised of all the agencies, local boards and committees which are controlled by the Community. Control is defined as the power to govern the financial and reporting policies of another organization with the expected benefits or risk of loss to the Community. The controlled organizations are consolidated after adjusting their accounting policies to a basis consistent with the accounting policies of the Community and inter-company balances and transactions have been eliminated. The notes to the financial statements should clearly indicate the reporting entity and consolidated entities.
- 4. The notes to the financial statements should report the existence of any related party transactions, contingent events and any material subsequent events that affect the financial statement fairness to the readers.

Financial Policies Page 8 of 18

- 5. A report on compliance with The Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act. Under the act, all grant recipients who meet the established criteria must provide this certification to the granting department (in this case, MNR) within six months of year-end.
- 6. A report on compliance with the reserve requirements with MNR. This report is to include certification that the balances of reserve accounts reported on the Community financial statements exist in the form of deposits invested in guaranteed interest bearing investments in order to be in compliance. It must clearly state whether the reserve funds are in an investment, in term deposits or in a separate bank account. The schedule of amounts distributed as reserves will be given to the auditors by Financial and Administrative Services Branch (FASB) of MNR.
- 7. A report on compliance with the legislation regarding the Municipal Employees Benefit Program (MEBP).
- 8. A management letter, which is detailed in Part IV, is to be issued.
- 9. A letter providing full disclosure as per the CPA Canada guidelines on public sector accounting practices including the confirmation of reserves with the fund invested and revenue confirmation from all outside sources.

If a denial of opinion is warranted on the audit of the financial statements, the audit firm is required to list all auditing procedures taken to reach such conclusion. The audit report still requires a management letter to be issued which is detailed in Section IV.

Copies of the audited financial statements complete with the auditor's report and the required supplemental reports listed above are to be distributed in paper and digital format as per Appendix C prior to August 31.

III Legal and Regulatory Items

MNR must be a signatory to all contracts of the unincorporated communities, as these communities are not legal entities.

NACs are subject to compliance with various acts, regulations, department policies and community bylaws. The more significant ones include:

- The Northern Affairs Act
 - of special note is the maximum monthly honorarium payable and per diem expenses paid to council members is stipulated by the Council Composition regulation 252/2006 (see Appendix B)
- The Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act
- certain sections of The Municipal Act and its regulations
- Municipal Employees Benefit Plan (MEBP) The eligible employees to MEBP plan must be enrolled as per the legislation. If not, the Community is exposed to large financial risks, in the event of an accident or death. It is also the duty of the Community to monitor the contribution and benefits of the MEBP-covered employees as per the act.
- The normal federal and provincial acts and regulations which apply to businesses.

Financial Policies Page 9 of 18

- The Northern Affairs Manual of Policies and Procedures (NAMPP)
 - of special note are the requirements with respect to property and vehicle insurance, writeoffs of accounts receivables and LGSP funding.

IV Management Letter

It is important that the Community is in compliance with the statutes and regulations governing its operation. The management letter, which must be submitted to the department along with the audit, is to:

- Report where a Community is not in compliance with provisions of the requirements of any governing legislation.
- Report where a Community is not following a department policy.
- Highlight the materiality level tested for the specific audit for information purposes.
- Report where a policy set for a self-administered community does not provide adequate control.
- Report where a community procedure does not provide adequate controls to ensure that
 financial information is timely and accurate and that Community assets are protected. This
 includes ensuring that expenditures relate to municipal services as defined in the NAMPP and
 Financial Management Guide and that goods and/or services are received for all payments
 made.
- Report on the assessment and list any deficiencies found in management controls on the areas listed in Appendix A.

V Supplementary Report

Under subsection 156(2) of The Northern Affairs Act, community auditor must submit with the report a supplement containing the following:

- a) a statement of opinion as to whether the accounting procedures and systems of control employed by the Community are adequate to preserve and protect its assets
- b) a statement of opinion as to whether the funds of the Community have been disbursed only under an authority granted by an act, or by a resolution or bylaw passed or an authority granted under an act
- c) a statement as to whether any irregularity or discrepancy came to the auditor's attention during the audit
- d) a statement as to any matters not referred to in clauses (a) to (c) that the auditor considers the minister or council should be aware of
- e) any recommendation the auditor considers necessary or advisable regarding the proper performance of duties and the keeping of records and books of account by the community administrative officer or other employees

See Appendix D - sample Supplementary Report

4

VI Timing

The following timeline is suggested in order to meet the August 31 reporting deadline:

	<u>EVENT</u>	DATE
•	FASB distributes a copy of the current contract and audit scope	December 31
	(see Note 1).	
•	Self-administered communities select the audit firm for their March 31	February 15
	year end audit and forward three signed copies of the audit contract	
	and a copy of the council resolution appointing the auditor with	
	the audit fee to FASB.	
•	FASB forwards the signed contract and a copy of the current audit	March 1
	scope to the audit firm (see Note 2).	
•	FASB forwards the tangible capital asset list to the incorporated	May 15
	Community.	
•	Records received by audit firm from the community.	June 1
•	FASB forwards the revenue confirmations to the audit firm.	June 15
•	Latest date for audit exit interviews to be conducted in the presence	August 1
	of the municipal development consultant (MDC) and the	
	community administrative officer or over the phone.	
•	Latest date for MDC review of the audited statements.	August 10
•	Latest date for council to hold a special meeting for approval	August 15
	of audited statements.	
•	Latest date for auditor to send report to community and department.	August 31

Notes:

- 1. Self-administered communities may require additional schedules to meet community requirements.
- 2. The audit firm is requested to sign all three copies of the audit contract. One copy is to be sent to the community, one to the department and one copy kept for the audit firm's records.

VII REVENUE CONFIRMATIONS

The department will supply revenue confirmations of all payments made from the Northern Affairs Fund to each community to the audit firm. The contact person for this information is:

Trust Fund Administrator

IRNRFundAdministrator@gov.mb.ca

Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations 59 Elizabeth Drive (Box 37) Thompson, MB R8N 1X4

Phone: 204-677-6613 Fax: 204-677-6753

Revenue confirmations for other sources of revenue should be obtained from the originating department, for example, Manitoba Hydro or Manitoba Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism.

Financial Policies Page 11 of 18

Appendix A

Accounting Policy, Required Financial Statements and Schedules and Management Controls

Accounting Policy

Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations (MNR) has requirements which may be considered as exceeding CPA Canada requirements. If an audit firm tenders or accepts appointment as an auditor for a NAC, this affirms that the audit firm accepts the following requirements, terms and conditions:

- The financial statement for NACs must be on a full accrual basis. Funding received with outstanding obligations must be recorded as unearned revenue. Where the obligation has been partially fulfilled, the part of the revenue earned should be recognized with the balance remaining as unearned revenue.
- To be meaningful, it is important that all communities classify revenue and expenditures accurately and consistently. As a result, every community is required to report in accordance with department specifications. Communities must use the financial statement format, required programs, including the account codes and names as outlined in the *Financial Management Guide* (FMG) under Appendix U Chart of Accounts. Items are to be coded and reported for financial statement purposes in accordance with these specifications. The audit firm agrees to consider any reporting of revenues or expenditures in an account other than the account specified for the type of revenue/expenditure as a classification error which is just as significant as any other error.
- It is accounting policy that the reporting of revenue and expenditures are in accordance with budgeting criteria. The FMG outlines how revenue and expenditures are budgeted and reported.
- Although NACs are legally part of MNR, department management and staff have no control over day-to-day community operations, record keeping and financial reporting. The department directors rely on community financial statements to make financial decisions with respect to funding in the same way that an investor or lender may rely on statements.
- The department must approve all debt incurred by a Community that is carried forward from one year into the next. For this purpose, debt includes unfulfilled obligations related to conditional funding received from the Manitoba government and others, bank overdrafts and future lease obligations. Per department policy, certain funds provided to communities are conditional. The department is concerned with any errors relating to conditional funding, including classification errors which would result in an undisclosed liability.

Required Financial Statements

The March 31 financial statements to be audited and included in the audit package must include the following:

1) Statement of Financial Position – The format for the balance sheet is shown in Appendix J - Balance Sheet of the FMG. The description of the funds for reserves must be clear on the financial statements as to whether the funds are in an investment, in term deposits or in a separate bank account.

Financial Policies Page 12 of 18

- 2) Statement of Operations The format for the income statement is shown in Appendix K Income Statement of the FMG. Revenue from the department for operating and maintenance must be shown as a separate line item from other grants. Locally generated revenue must be subtotalled within the revenue section of the income statement.
- 3) Statement of Cash Flows The format for the statement of cash flows is shown in Appendix L Statement of Cash Flows of the FMG.
- 4) Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets.

Required Schedules

The following schedules are required as at March 31:

- 1) Schedule of Expenses A schedule must be prepared identifying total expenses by expense line item, for example, wages, training, travel.
- 2) Program Expenses A schedule must be prepared identifying the expenses for each required program, for example administration, public works, water, wastewater, solid waste, fire, community safety officer, recreation. A sample report guideline is shown in Appendix M Project Report for Administration of the FMG.
- 3) Schedule of Locally Generate Revenue A locally generated revenue schedule must be prepared identifying community revenue from service fees and other local revenue. A report guideline is shown in Appendix N Schedule of Locally Generated Revenue of the FMG.
- 4) Schedule of Reserves A reserves schedule must include totals for each reserve fund (both operating and capital), for example capital reserves consist of waste disposal site cell replacement, vehicle replacements, etc. and operating reserves consist of water break repairs, pump replacement, fire equipment, etc. It must also include the current year contribution amount, investment interest and withdrawals. A report guideline is shown in Appendix O Schedule of Reserves of the FMG.
- 5) Schedule of Tangible Capital Assets A schedule must be prepared for all tangible capital assets including cost, accumulated amortization, net book value and annual amortization for the incorporated communities only (not applicable for the unincorporated communities). A report guideline is shown in Appendix P Schedule of Tangible Capital Assets of the FMG.
- 6) Accounts Payable An aged listing of all outstanding payables by vendor/supplier must be included.
- 7) Accounts Receivable An aged listing of all outstanding receivables by customer/funding agency must be submitted separately to the department, but not included as part of the audit report.

Management Controls

It is the Community's responsibility to ensure proper internal control procedures are implemented and adhered to. The following indicates areas where management controls are required:

General

• All decisions of council must be by council resolution.

Financial Policies Page 13 of 18

- Council minutes need to be approved by council at the next council meeting.
 The minutes need to be endorsed by the chair of the meeting in which they were approved and by the community administrative officer (CAO).
- o Monthly financial statements need to be approved by council at the next council meeting.

Revenue

- o Communities need to have an internal control system for recording and collecting all locally generated revenue.
- o Rates for all services provided must be approved by council resolution.
- o Receipts are pre-numbered using Sage 50 software.

• Payroll

- o All employees, including casual employees, are hired by council resolution.
- Each permanent employee must have an employee agreement signed by the employee and supervisor. The standard employee agreement to be used by communities is in Appendix A Employee Agreement/Schedules of the Employee Management Guide.
- o Each permanent employee must have a current job description.
- All employees must have a designated supervisor, namely the CAO.
- There must be time sheets to support each payroll cheque to all employees which is signed by the employee's designated supervisor.
- Each employee's performance should be appraised at least once during the year by the designated supervisor.
- Each employee should have a training plan in place which addresses any deficiencies identified in the employee's most recent appraisal.

Expenditures

- All expenditures must be pre-authorized by council resolution or via a purchase order signed by someone delegated to do so by council resolution.
- All invoices must have the receipt of goods indicated and are to be marked paid with the cheque number recorded on the invoice.
- o All cheques are pre-numbered and require two signatures.
- All expenditures from the capital replacement reserves require department approval.
- All disbursements from operating reserves require a resolution by council. Expenditures must relate to the purpose for which each particular reserve was established.

Cash

- o Receipts must be deposited on a weekly basis if the amount exceeds \$200.
- Bank reconciliations must be completed on a monthly basis and balance to the general ledger.

Financial Policies Page 14 of 18

Appendix B Council Compensation Regulation

THE NORTHERN AFFAIRS ACT (C.C.S.M. c. N100)
Council Compensation Regulation

The information in this appendix is taken from Manitoba Regulation 252/2006.

1) Honorarium for Communities

The maximum monthly honorarium payable to a mayor or council or for a community is the amount specified in the following table:

Population of Community	Position	Monthly Honorarium
0 to 74	Mayor	\$150
	Councillor	\$115
75 to 150	Mayor	\$220
	Councillor	\$170
151 to 300	Mayor	\$240
	Councillor	\$190
301 and greater	Mayor	\$300
	Councillor	\$250

2) Monthly Payments to a Maximum Amount

If an honorarium is paid to a mayor or councillor, it must be paid on a monthly basis.

3) Per Diems and Expenses

If a member conducts business outside the community boundary, the per diem rate must not exceed \$120 per day or \$120 pro-rated if less than a full work day was required.

The living and travel expenses paid to a member conducting business outside the community boundary must not exceed the amounts or rates payable to Manitoba government employees.

Page 15 of 18

Appendix C Report Distribution List

Paper copies:

1. Community Council

2. Rico Penamante

Trust Fund Operations, Manager Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations 3-213 Notre Dame Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3B 1N3

Electronic copy:

1. Paul Doolan

Executive Director Paul.Doolan@gov.mb.ca

2. Rico Penamante

Trust Fund Operations, Manager Rico.Penamante@gov.mb.ca

Northern Region

3. Tracy Grexton

Regional Director - Northern Region Tracy.Grexton@gov.mb.ca

and

4. Shashwat Paliwal

Municipal Development Consultant Shashwat.Paliwal@gov.mb.ca

or

5. Ulf Kristiansson

Municipal Development Consultant Ulf.Kristiansson@gov.mb.ca

or

6. Candace Hofferd

Municipal Development Consultant Candace.Hofferd@gov.mb.ca

Financial Policies Page 16 of 18

North Central Region

3. Stew Sabiston

Regional Director - North Central Region Stewart.Sabiston@gov.mb.ca

and

4. Bonny Dumas

Municipal Development Consultant Bonny.Dumas@gov.mb.ca

or

5. Alvin Murdock

Municipal Development Consultant Alvin.Murdock@gov.mb.ca

 \mathbf{or}

6. Robert Barbeau

Municipal Development Consultant Robert Barbeau@gov.mb.ca

Financial Policies Page 17 of 18

Appendix D Sample Supplementary Audit Report

Regional Director

North Central/Northern Region, Northern Affairs Branch Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

In accordance with subsection 156(2) of The Northern Affairs Act, we have been engaged to report:

- (a) As to whether the accounting procedures and system of controls employed by the community are adequate to preserve and protect its assets.
- (b) As to whether the funds of the community have been disbursed only under an authority granted by an act, or by a resolution or bylaw passed or an authority granted under an act.
- (c) Any irregularity or discrepancy came to the auditor's attention during the audit.
- (d) Any matters not referred to in clauses (a) to (c) that I consider the minister, or council should be aware of.
- (e) Any recommendation I consider necessary or advisable regarding the proper performance of duties and the keeping of records and books of account by the community administrative officer or other employees.

These other reporting responsibilities arise from our audit of the consolidated financial
statements of the [Name of the Community] for the fiscal year ended March 31, 20XX
on which we issued our report dated

We conducted our audit in accordance with the criteria established by Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations, and as required by subsection 156(2) of The Northern Affairs Act. We are independent of the Community in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the compliance with the criteria, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, as at **March 31, XXX**, the Community is in compliance, in all material respects, with the criteria established by subsection 156(2) of The Northern Affairs Act.

This report is intended solely for the use by Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations and should not be used by other parties.

[Chartered Professional Accountant's signature]
[Date]
[Chartered Professional Accountant's address]

Financial Policies Page 18 of 18