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“We all Work Together”

Municipalities and First Nations join forces to streamline treaty land entitlement process

March 17, 2015 – A partnership agreement was signed today by the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) and the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba (TLEC). The agreement is part of an ongoing dialogue aimed at establishing a more open and effective Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) process in Manitoba.

According to **Doug Dobrowolski**, President of the AMM, the agreement further solidifies a relationship that is already working well. “The AMM meets regularly with the TRCM and the TLEC and we’ve collaborated on a number of initiatives,” he said. “The TLE claim process is complicated, and open communication is absolutely essential to keep these agreements moving along.”

“The original intent of the treaties was to create shared prosperity for everyone in Manitoba through cooperation and respect,” said **James Wilson**, Treaty Commissioner. “Today’s agreement is signed in that same spirit and reminds us resolving outstanding treaty land entitlements will mean a stronger province for our children and grandchildren.”

“With the heightened interest in TLE, the Kapyong Barracks and the recent economic development ventures on urban reserves in Winnipeg and Swan River, the signing of this agreement is timely,” said Sapotaweyak Cree Nation **Chief Nelson Genaille**, President of the TLEC. “We want to demystify the misconceptions of “Indian Reserves” and the TLE process and pave the way for more urban reserves throughout Manitoba. And the only way to achieve these goals is through on-going dialogue and working together.”

Dobrowolski says the agreement goes beyond simply encouraging further dialogue amongst the parties. “It’s about cooperation and showing other orders of government—federal and provincial—how we are working together in Manitoba.”

The signing ceremony took place today during the AMM’s Municipal Officials Seminar in Winnipeg.

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