

***Memorandum of Understanding respecting a
Manitoba/Ontario Interprovincial Wilderness Area***

BETWEEN:

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT
OF THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA**

as represented by the Minister of Conservation

("Manitoba")

-and-

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT
OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

as represented by the Minister of Natural Resources

("Ontario")

WHEREAS Atikaki and Nopiming Provincial Parks in Manitoba and Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve in Ontario are adjoining park lands and protected lands;

WHEREAS Manitoba and Ontario recognize these lands form a wilderness area of great ecological and recreational importance ("Interprovincial Wilderness Area");

WHEREAS it is of mutual benefit to Manitoba and Ontario to exchange knowledge and information regarding the Interprovincial Wilderness Area;

WHEREAS such exchange of information may conserve the natural and social value of the Interprovincial Wilderness Area for the benefit of Canadian society;

WHEREAS it is to the benefit of both parties to encourage and increase cooperation within the Interprovincial Wilderness Area;

WHEREAS it is to the benefit of both parties and Canadian society to conserve the land and develop wilderness recreational opportunities within the Interprovincial Wilderness Area;

THEREFORE, Manitoba and Ontario express their mutual understanding as follows:

1. For the purposes outlined in this Memorandum, Manitoba and Ontario establish the Manitoba-Ontario Interprovincial Wilderness Area, consisting of those parts of Atikaki, Nopiming, and Woodland Caribou Provincial Parks and the Eagle - Snowshoe Conservation Reserve as shown in attachment 1.

2.

2. Manitoba and Ontario will work separately and jointly to conserve and preserve the unique ecological diversity of the area, while respecting and maintaining their separate jurisdictions.
3. Manitoba and Ontario will cooperate and work jointly to:
 - a. Encourage and support research within the area providing that the research is consistent with the objectives of the Interprovincial Wilderness Area;
 - b. Coordinate resource management that is consistent with the role of the Interprovincial Wilderness Area; such as, but not limited to, fire/vegetation management and wildlife management;
 - c. Promote a consistent theme relevant to the role of the Interprovincial Wilderness Area through marketing endeavours; and
 - d. Manage and coordinate recreational opportunities that reflect the value of the Interprovincial Wilderness Area.
4. Manitoba and Ontario will establish a joint working committee responsible for implementing this Memorandum. This committee will be co-chaired by the Eastern Region Park Manager from Manitoba and the Superintendent of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park from Ontario. The working committee will develop its own terms of reference and will report annually to the respective provincial departments.
5. Manitoba and Ontario recognize that the Interprovincial Wilderness Area will be strengthened through partnerships with nearby First Nations, the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site initiative and other local communities, and will strive to build and maintain those partnerships.
6. Manitoba and Ontario will work together to negotiate and conclude any necessary agreements required to implement these agreed principles.
7. This Memorandum may be amended by common statement in writing of Manitoba and Ontario.
8. Either party may withdraw from this Memorandum by giving the other party reasonable notice in writing.
9. Nothing in this Memorandum will be construed so as to abrogate or derogate the protection provided for the existing Aboriginal or Treaty rights of the Aboriginal people of Canada as recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982.

10. This Memorandum is not intended to create a legally binding agreement between the parties, nor is it intended to create any legally enforceable rights or obligations, but it reflects, as a matter of policy, the common understanding of the parties.

This Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Minister of Conservation on behalf of the Province of Manitoba and by the Minister of Natural Resources on behalf of the Province of Ontario on the dates noted below.

The Honourable Stan Struthers
Manitoba Minister of Conservation
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

The Honourable Donna Cansfield
Ontario Minister of Natural Resources
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Date: July 30, 2008

Date:

Witness: _____

Witness: _____