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## LAND BASED STRATEGY

It is the view of the Province that this work group should initially prepare and submit to the negotiating committee a report to be utilized by the negotiating committee in determining which community or communities should first be dealt with under this agenda item. The report should:

(a) identify all northern communities which the negotiating committee might consider appropriate to be dealt with pursuant to this agenda item;

(b) contain the most complete possible demographic analysis of the communities, identifying trends wherever possible and including Metis, Non-Status and Status Indian groups which might be affected by the selection of a community;

(c) describe and analyze the economic base and potential of the communities, including among other things employment patterns, human resources, natural resource base (including but not restricted to land) and its ownership and availability, and educational and training institutions;

(d) describe and analyze relevant governments and political organizations, their constituencies and membership, and the likely response of those governments and organizations and the local population to a community based initiative which might significantly affect governmental and economic structures. This section may deal with the relative acceptability of competing models described in general terms, such as modified municipal institutions, the Metis

settlement concept, or programs aimed at increasing individual landholdings or assisting the individual entrepreneur;

(e) recommendations for priority among communities, including a comparative analysis which takes account of:

(i) prospects of successful implementation in light of technical considerations and likely response in interested constituencies;

(ii) likelihood of success in ameliorating conditions in both the short and long term;

(iii) funding constraints and likelihood of government capacity to fund a solution which will have as a primary component model economic solutions based on appropriate resources.

The working group will be instructed that its work will be carried on in the context of discussions aimed not only at community economic, social and political development, but at achieving that goal in a manner which increases Metis and Non-Status Indian control over and responsibility for their own economic and political futures as individuals and at the community level. The negotiating committee has not, however, determined the manner in which those goals will be achieved, and the working group must accordingly approach its task in a manner which does not implicitly restrict the range of options which may be considered or implemented. It is the Provincial view that the options must be considered on a community by community basis, and take due account of the views expressed by the members of those communities ultimately selected for priority treatment in the tripartite process.

The working group should, at this initial stage, undertake its investigations in as discrete a fashion as possible, and should not conduct community meetings. Such meetings may create unrealistic or inappropriate expectations and concerns. Enquiries in the communities should not be conducted in a fashion which presupposes the results of the negotiation. For example, it should not be indicated that these negotiations will result in the transfer of lands to Metis and Non-Status Indian organizations. It is both adequate and proper at this stage to describe this agenda item as an attempt to design a community based strategy which will provide structural solutions to the social, economic and political needs of three northern Metis and Non-Status Indian communities.

It is the view of the Province that this project will be far less manageable if work proceeds on three communities at the same time. We are, however, prepared to consider that possibility on receipt of the initial report and recommendations of the working group, and in light of resource constraints and other relevant circumstances.

Provincial representation on this work group will initially include officials from Justice and the Secretariat, and from the Northern Affairs Secretariat, Agriculture, and Parks and Renewable Resources. Additional representatives of provincial agencies and departments might be added from time time, depending on the manner in which their mandates are affected. Third parties, including rural municipalities, may be asked to participate by the negotiating committee, as for example due to the need to enlist specific expertise, ensure community support, or due to jurisdictional issues.